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The Bridgend & Porthcawl GEM

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THURSDAY AUGUST 15TH, 2019

Eco-graffiti in Bridgend. See page 3.



**Crackdown sees
20 blue badges
confiscated**



*The
holder
of one
badge
still in
use was
dead.*

A TWO-day crackdown on the misuse of the blue badge scheme in Bridgend saw 20 badges taken away from people.

Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) said the majority of fraud involved people using someone else's badge to avoid paying for parking. In one case, someone was using a badge that had already been reported as lost or stolen, and in another, a relative was using a blue badge despite the fact that the eligible badge holder was deceased.

The enforcement work was carried out or parks. It cannot be borrowed by the local authority rowed or used if they in partnership with a are not in the vehicle.

specialist team from Portsmouth City Council. It involved hundreds of badges being checked on Tuesday and Wednesday last week. In total 15 people were fined and the council said further action was "under consideration".

At an audit committee on August 8, finance officers said there was more misuse than the council had expected and it had probably "only scratched the surface" of the issue.

By law, blue badges can only be displayed in a vehicle if the badge holder is present in the car when it arrives or

Rotarians' cheque to Bridgend Samaritans



(Left to right): Don Bell, Peter Davies, Sian Whitefield, Cheryl Pearcey and Michael Long.

A delegation from Cowbridge Rotary Club attended the Bridgend Samaritans Open Day at Green Street, Bridgend, on Saturday, August 3, to present a cheque to branch director Cheryl Pearcey.

Immediate past president Michael Long chose the Bridgend branch as one of the charities he could personally choose to support during his time as president of Cowbridge Rotary. A total of £2,000 was raised for the charity, which has been supporting those in need across Bridgend and the Vale for 47 years.

The money was raised through various activities including car boot sales, the Cowbridge Rotary Spring Gardens Open Day and collections at Cowbridge Food Festival.

Prior to presenting the cheque, members Don Bell, Sian Whitefield, president Peter Davies, and Michael Long were given a tour of the facilities at the branch.

Michael Long said "It has been very valuable to

see behind the scenes today which has given us all an insight into the crucial work that takes place here, and into exactly how our donation will be used to further the work of Samaritans across south Wales."

Cheryl Pearcey said "I am delighted that the party from Cowbridge Rotary Club were able to visit today and to meet some of our volunteers. Their donation will go a very long way, enabling us to continue our work and it is deeply appreciated."

Bridgend Samaritans were set up in 1972, and have been supporting callers for over 47 years. They currently have 88 volunteers who provide a telephone, email, SMS and face to face listening service every day of the week, including weekends and overnight.

In 2018 they spent over 4,500 hours on the phone answering over 24,000 calls, and also replied to 1,000 email messages and 3,000 texts.

If you would like more information about the work of Bridgend Samaritans, visit www.samaritans.org/wales/branches/bridgend.

**Chapman's
Channel
challenge**



Intrepid Tom Chapman of Porthcawl recently swam the English Channel. Full story Page 10.



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Vale Show 'the best in Wales'

HERE in the Vale, we are blessed with hosting what is in my unbiased opinion Wales' best one-day agricultural show.

This year's Vale Show certainly lived up to that reputation, with something on offer for all the family.

A few very heavy showers aside, there was very little that I would have changed about the event, and that is testament to the excellent job show secretary Sarah Fenner and the whole team did.

I would like to congratulate all competitors who picked up prizes throughout the day, and thank everyone who helped make the event the success it was.

I'm already looking forward to Wednesday, August 12, 2020, which is of course the date of next year's show!

Andrew RT Davies, South Wales Central Regional AM.

• See photographs from the Vale Show on Pages 26 and 27.

Blue bags? Bin there; done that

ON any given recycling day throughout Barry there are the contents of the plastic bags, torn open by seagulls trying to get at the food that has been hidden inside instead of being placed in the correct containers.

I have seen dirty nappies, sanitary products etc all non-recyclable. The council does not pick this up and nor should they. It's the same few people who participate in this practice.

As regards the rush to get the blue bags, these have been available for close to a year, I have been using them with no problems and with the velcro strip this keeps the contents secure.

Recycling? Bring it on.

Ashley Wallace,
Barry.

Dropped kerbs are there for a reason!

OH dear oh dear, motorists getting a ticket for parking across a dropped kerb - it will spoil their day. I'm not an argumentative sort Mr Tucker but I must take issue with that.

Does it not matter that a family with young children in prams or pushchairs, or less able family members in wheelchairs will have their day spoilt because thoughtless, selfish drivers park across the dropped kerbs and make it unnecessarily difficult for them to negotiate the pavements, when especially those pushing wheelchairs are trying to give a disabled relative a day out?

The dropped kerbs are there to make life easier for people with pushchairs, prams and wheelchairs. I make no apologies Mr Tucker: this is something I feel very strongly about. Just under a year ago I was involved in an accident which left me with a brain injury. My 'disability' is largely invisible - I look perfectly normal but I have difficulties with my co-ordination and my balance. I have to be very careful.

Every time there is a sunny day or a special event Barry island is full of cars parked inconsiderately and frankly, I get brassed off having to walk around cars blocking pavements and crossing places because the driver is too tight to pay to use the car

Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address, contact telephone number. We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

park provided.

If a driver gets a fixed penalty fine for parking in a way that causes an obstruction especially on the pavement - which is intended for pedestrians; or a dropped kerb - which is intended to make life a little easier for mothers pushing their child in a pushchair and for relatives of disabled people in wheelchairs - then that is their fault for making the decision - and it is a deliberate decision - to park inconsiderately in the wrong place in the first place.

Let's have a little thought for those on the pavement, who have as much right to some consideration and appropriate facilities as motorists.

David Alexander
Barry Island

An opportunity not to be missed...

NOW that the town walls have been revealed in all their glory, followed by the announcement of the closure of the livestock market, there is now a once in a lifetime opportunity for an imaginative plan for The Butts and the market area to be considered as a whole.

Clearly there is need for more car parking in Cowbridge, but the potentially depressing effect of this could be mitigated by appropriate landscaping including attractive and safe provision for pedestrians. The Butts area could for example be landscaped to enhance the view of the town walls from the High Street and perhaps give the impression of a boulevard.

I fully agree with your previous correspondents' letters regarding the unsuitability of the siting of the proposed Exchange building alongside the Market Place restaurant.

It is worth noting the comments of the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments: "Grade II listed building - 'extremely rare example of town house retaining medieval features on important site in conservation area. The walls to The Butts are along the line of the Medieval walls of Cowbridge, and incorporate in their footings parts of the old walls'.

The proposed building would be close to the difficult junction on to the High Street. Inevitably it would attract vehicles to temporarily stop on the road to load and unload people and goods thereby causing congestion. On a market day there could be as many vans as stallholders.

In summary, devise a comprehensive plan for this important area of Cowbridge including the livestock market site, The Butts and the area behind Old Hall - the first step being to re-locate the Exchange building back to the market area as originally proposed.

John Sherwood
Cowbridge

'Has UHW taken any action in the last two years?'

I had a similar experience in the surgical unit at UHW in October 2017 and subsequently wrote to complain.

empty containers or swallowing wrappers. Despite them being washed, they retain the smell of food and hungry animals often get stuck in bottles and tins, and all too often we hear of animals dying with their stomachs full of plastic.

Also, it is incorrect to say that carrier bags cannot be recycled. Polyethylene is very much recyclable. This is simply the Council wanting to pick and choose what it takes from our waste to save themselves the effort of doing their job.

There is no such thing as "single use" plastics.

Mrs Z von Fleuger,
Barry.

It's time to target pavement parkers

I would like to reply to the readers letter from Mark Tucker which featured in The Gem dated 8th August, as follows:

How lovely it was to see 'a small number' of illegally and obstructive cars being ticketed for parking over dropped kerbs. It's a shame the pavement parkers weren't ticketed as well.

Unfortunately, Mr. Tucker, if you are disabled and need to use a dropped kerb, or even walk along the pavement with a guide dog unhindered you can't just have 'a day off' and perhaps The Vale needs more enforcement officers - not less.

Would it really harm fit and able bodied drivers to park safely and legally just a little further away? be they runners or spectators? Then, perhaps, they wouldn't spoil their own day or that of anyone with a disability, whose only choice - if they can't get off the pavement - is to go home and remain housebound! Now, that really is a spoilt day!

Name and address supplied

Area in 'sorry state'

I HAVE just returned from a walk around Maesteg and Caerau - an area I have lived in for many years.

However, when I see the condition of the area with overgrown weeds, broken pavements, and exposed to fly tipping, I wonder who is responsible for allowing our town to be in such a dreadful state, dilapidated and overgrown area suffering from neglect?

Steve Jones,
Maesteg.

Have your say on all the local issues - write to the Gem's letters' page

HIGH TIDE TIMES

The high tides listed in this week's Gem are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tides times will vary. For instance, in Barry the high point will be 20-25 minutes later.

UNTIL AUGUST 22

| Date | Time | Height (metres) |
|------------|-------|-----------------|
| 15/08/2019 | 07.29 | 9.2 |
| 15/08/2019 | 19.46 | 9.4 |
| 16/08/2019 | 08.03 | 9.2 |
| 16/08/2019 | 20.12 | 9.5 |
| 17/08/2019 | 08.37 | 9.4 |
| 17/08/2019 | 20.52 | 9.5 |
| 18/08/2019 | 09.06 | 9.4 |
| 18/08/2019 | 21.23 | 9.4 |
| 19/08/2019 | 09.35 | 9.3 |
| 19/08/2019 | 21.52 | 9.2 |
| 20/08/2019 | 10.04 | 9.1 |
| 20/08/2019 | 22.23 | 9.0 |
| 21/08/2019 | 10.37 | 8.9 |
| 21/08/2019 | 22.54 | 8.7 |
| 22/08/2019 | 11.09 | 8.6 |
| 22/08/2019 | 23.33 | 8.3 |

While the Gem makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.

If you have a complaint, write to us at the address below, left, or call Philip Irwin on 01446 774484.

All complaints will be fully investigated.

If you are not satisfied with the outcome, you may wish to contact IPSO, Gate House,

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New Wales Coast Path app launches in time for family summer holidays



Families are encouraged to download the app for an augmented reality tour of the Welsh coast.

THIS summer it is easier than ever to have a great family day out along the Wales Coast Path with the introduction of a new free augmented reality (AR) app.

The app has been launched to encourage families from across south Wales to get outdoors during the summer holidays and to ensure the region's fantastic views, glorious wildlife diversity, fascinating history and wondrous legends are brought to life using augmented reality, games and other fun features. In Cardiff Bay, the new AR app will allow walkers to use their mobile devices to enjoy exciting new experiences such as learning about Guglielmo Marconi and the world's first wireless communication. While walking around Cardiff Bay, bid farewell to Scott of the Antarctic and his crew as they embark on their voyage of discovery, with the Welsh dragon flying high from the ship's mast. Five miles off the coast of Cardiff explore the rich history of Flat Holm featuring medieval monks, pirates and Vikings.

A series of new family-friendly walks have also been created and are accessible via the Wales Coast Path website. Take the three-mile route from the Welsh Assembly's Senedd building along Cardiff Bay's waterfront, and look out for the experience panel near the famous Roald Dahl crocodile bench along the way. Download the app before you arrive and use your mobile phone to scan one of the experience panels to unlock a range of interactive features and augmented reality animations. The app is available free via the Apple App Store (iOS devices) and Google Play (Android devices), searchable using 'Wales Coast Path'. Download the app before arrival or while walking the path, to unlock content at chosen locations. The app uses GPS track location in real life and triggers augmented reality animations at different points along the Wales Coast Path.

Find out more at: www.walescoastpath.gov.uk www.walescoastpath.gov.uk/plan-your-visit-days-out/family-walks-with-a-difference.

New faces at Cowbridge Music Festival



Photograph of Maya Youssef by Igor Studio.

WITH now only three weeks to go before the opening night of Cowbridge Music Festival, excitement is mounting and tickets are selling fast.

To celebrate the festival's

10th anniversary several stars of classical and jazz make welcome return visits, including the festival's Associate Artist pianist Llŷr Williams, and jazz clarinettist Street shops. With a great variety

of concerts and events, including the Festival Fringe which features musicians of all kind. Tickets can be bought online or at the festival's box office at the Bear Hotel on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday mornings. But hurry – concerts are beginning to sell out!

This article corrects information in last week's GEM and wrongly attributed to the festival management.

Touchdown takes off

CARDIFF Airport has recently launched an initiative entitled 'The Touchdown Programme' delivering an action plan across four key areas.

A 'Charity Of The Year' will be selected to benefit from a number of fundraising activities across the airport; Cardiff Airport in the Community – a grant scheme with three tiered levels of funding available; The Learning Programme – further developing the current successful educational visit scheme for schools, extra-curricular groups and other community clubs; Community Communication – ensuring we are talking to and listening to the community through a number of ways, including committees and events.

As the national airport for Wales, Cardiff Airport is committed to making a sustainable positive impact on the community underpinned by its corporate vision 'to be a pioneering airport business, making Wales proud.'

Applications are now being taken for charity support and the community grant scheme and the deadline for applications is August 31. The selection process will be completed and announced in November with the view to selecting and having partners in place by January 1.

Deb Bowen Rees, CEO at Cardiff Airport said: "We understand the significance of having an airport in the region, and impact that can have on people's lives. Our community is hugely important to us. South Wales is the area where our team and many of our customers live, work and enjoy life so we want to ensure we support the region and give back in as many ways as we can.

"Through the new programme we will establish effective, sustainable partnerships and plan activities that make the best use of the energies and skills of the whole airport team."

For more information of the Touchdown Programme, application process and criteria visit www.cardiff-airport.com/touchdown-programme/.

Graffiti artist helps pupils create murals



One of the murals schoolchildren helped to create

CHILDREN at Litchard and Garth primary schools

helped a graffiti artist with the murals which have been installed at the Wildmill underpass near Bridgend town centre and along the length of a wall at the Oakwood estate in Maesteg.

to encourage residents to help keep where they live clean and safe both for people and the local wildlife.

The children took part in mini-beast hunts and future activities involve litter picks and clean-ups. The project, called Reconnect With The Rivers, involved graffiti artist Bryce Davies, and was funded by social housing provider Valleys

Organisers said the murals, which portray scenes of nature, aim to encourage people to help keep where they live clean and safe both for people and the local wildlife.

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Osprey's employment programme supports young people



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OSPREYS Rugby team has a Community Employability Programme working with young people in Bridgend aged 12-24 who are facing tough challenges.

The aim is to improve leadership, softer skills and understanding of further education and the workplace.

The Ospreys cover the whole Ospreys region: Swansea, Neath, Port Talbot and Bridgend, working in schools while linking in with colleges, Careers

Wales, Job Centre and rugby clubs using rugby and sports as a vehicle to engage with young people.

Workshops and mock interview days feature, with Ospreys players and leading industry personnel as role models. Specific workshops offer skill building exercises to assist with finding work, the CV writing element being of particular success.

For further information about getting involved with the Osprey's project contact Dorian Evans on dorian.evans@ospreysrugby.com.

Coity Castle, Choirs in the Castle dubbed 'a huge success'



THE Choirs in the Castle outdoor show was a massive success again this year.

Organised by the fantastic team in Coity, Kevin Davies, David Shaw, Alun Clemett and Doug McCarthy this year's event received 21 sponsors from local businesses headed by Watts & Morgan. The event was well attended by over 200 guests, and most importantly stayed dry for the duration of the concert.

The event raised a total amount of £2,500. Donations such as these are vital to Y Bont, without which the charity wouldn't survive. On behalf of Y Bont and the event organisers, they would like to thank all of choristers who gave up their time, the volunteers who helped to support the concert and all the guests who attended.

Lottery funding sessions

STAFF from the National Lottery Community Fund are offering appointments to local voluntary groups and organisations to discuss funding opportunities at Bryncethin Community Centre on Wednesday, September 11. Organised by Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO), appointments are available from 1pm - 6pm. Every year the fund distributes millions of pounds of National Lottery funding to good causes. It

Probus club welcomes Vale MP's Q&A

FOR the July meeting, the Vale Probus Club welcomed the Vale MP and Secretary of State for Wales, Alun Cairns, who delivered an entertaining and informative talk on his experiences in Parliament.

The membership was

LG

treated to insights into the traditions and conventions of Parliament not usually seen by outsiders, as well as a plethora of amusing personal anecdotes experienced by the Secretary himself.

To finish, Mr Cairns invited a very active Q&A session before attending to his busy schedule.

Classic cars and jeeps on show

DID you see (or did you miss) the procession of classic cars which drove round Porthcawl last Saturday?

They were on their way to join many more at the Vintage Fair at Porthcawl Rugby Club. Porthcawl Lions hosted this event for the seventh year with 200 classic vehicles; from jealously

dreamt of sports cars to fondly remembered family favourites, and from military jeeps to police pandas, they were there to be inspected and judged.

Also in the procession

were motorcycles from the Honda Goldwing Club, which will be staging their own event in town in September.

Stalls from local charities all did well, and car boot stalls added a Saturday to their regular Sunday appearances at the venue, and the event was opened by Porthcawl Mayor Graham Walters.

Pictured below are the presentations by Lions president Joan Cossen to best in show: Austin Healey 3000, 1964, Jim Hustler from Llanwit Fardre and runner-up: Cadillac Sedan de Ville, 1958, Colin Loveluck from Bryncoch.



Welsh Water launches free and confidential pesticide disposal scheme to protect drinking water quality

WELSH Water has opened a registration window for farmers, growers and land managers in Wales to dispose of any unwanted pesticides and herbicides as part of their free and confidential PestSmart project.

PestSmart encourages people across Wales to consider 'smarter' ways of weed, pest and disease control that do not impact on people, water or wildlife.

Ian Christie, Managing Director of Water Services at Welsh Water, explains:

"Our routine raw water monitoring programme has detected increasing traces of pesticides in areas we have never seen them before. While these levels are too low to pose a risk to those drinking the water, they are enough to risk breaching rigorous drinking water standards so we want to work with farmers, growers and land managers to take action to address

this issue together.

"Even the most organised of land managers can find themselves with an out of date or now unlicensed product which can be difficult or expensive to dispose of correctly. To help them, we are launching a free 'no questions asked' disposal scheme to safely take away any unwanted pesticides and herbicides.

"We know that pesticides form an essential and everyday role in the agricultural community. However, if stored, used or disposed of incorrectly, they can have a devastating impact on people, water and wildlife. By providing this free and confidential scheme across Wales,



and land managers to not just Welsh Water's register for the free pesticide disposal scheme. Minimising the impact of pesticides on the environment is an essential part of responding to the ecological crisis, protecting Wales' watercourses for future generations."

The scheme is available throughout Wales,

operating area. It is completely confidential and available for a limited time on a first come, first served basis.

To register, visit dwrcymru.com/disposalscheme or call 01443 452716 by no later than 5pm on Monday 30th September 2019. Your

details will be securely transferred to Welsh Water's appointed hazardous waste contractor who will contact you for further details before collecting your unwanted pesticides and herbicides on a pre-arranged date. Terms and conditions apply and are available on the Welsh Water website.

ST John Cymru goal of 3,000 new life-savers, as part of the **'Save a Life September'** initiative is a drive to raise awareness of the importance of first aid.

Throughout September, the charity will be delivering hundreds of free two hour training sessions at schools, training centres and businesses across Wales.

Someone's just been severely burned in a barbecue accident – what do you do to help? A friend's just collapsed after exercise – how would you react? A child has stopped breathing – what should your first thought be?

The public will learn how to save a life using easy to follow techniques and will be awarded a St John Cymru Certificate.

Knowing exactly what to do, and taking quick and effective action, could make the difference between life and death.

As Wales' leading first aid charity St John September, locally Cymru wants everyone and throughout Wales to have the first aid skills to deal with an emergency situation or call 0345 678 5646 and achieve St John's for more information.

Another busy month for Coastwatch

JULY was another busy month for us, with 14 logged and 29 monitored incidents.

This matches the number of incidents recorded in July 2018, but monitored incidents have increased by nine from this time last year. Our incidents ranged from missing persons, to overdue swimmers and from 'tombstoners' to dinghies adrift.

This means July 2019 was our busiest month since the station opened. July was also a record month for logged vessels, with 1,787 recorded movements. Interestingly, 85 per cent of these were related to leisure.

At the time of writing this report we have recorded 57 incidents for the year – 10 more than this time in 2018. This makes us one of the busiest National Coastwatch stations in the UK. Our innovative and state of the art CCTV system helps us achieve this, with an unparalleled level of coverage over the local coastline. Rarely do we have quiet watches during the summer!

We thank everyone who continues to support us and especially for the excellent response to our stand at Rescue Fest 2019.

Our tower is 149 years old this year and we hope to celebrate its sesquicentennial anniversary next year in appropriate fashion.

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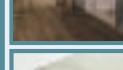
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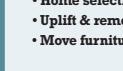
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Ward councillors surgery

THE Labour councillors for Buttrills, Cadoc, Casteland and Court wards will be holding their regular monthly advice surgery on Saturday, August 17 in the Small Community Room, Barry Library, Kings Square from 10am until 11am; no appointment necessary.

Gileston Manor open day

GILESTON Manor grounds and gardens Open Day is on Sunday, August 18 at Gileston Manor, near St Athan from 2pm to 4pm.

The event is being held to raise funds for Gileston Church and to be followed by a short Songs of Praise service on the Manor lawn at 4.30pm, with music provided by the St Athan Voluntary Band. Entry fee £5, children free, refreshments available to purchase. Everyone most welcome.

County Lines drugs operation results in arrests and prison



Clockwise from left:
Ian Wilkins; Adam
Harries; and
Kane Griffiths.

The trio were arrested and convicted as part of a county lines police operation investigating drugs trafficking.

THE head of a county lines drug gang and two of his associates have been jailed for 25 years.

Kane Griffiths-Jeffries, aged 22, ran the class A drugs operation from London and attempted to use two 17-year-old girls to flood the streets of Bridgend with crack cocaine and heroin.

Following a trial at Cardiff Crown Court, he was convicted of two counts of conspiracy to supply class A drugs and was sentenced to 11 years in jail on August 14.

Adam Harries, aged 37, of Bridgend, pleaded guilty to two counts of conspiracy to supply class A drugs and was sentenced to seven years and six months.

Local drug dealer Ian Wilkins, aged 42, of Bridgend, was convicted of two counts of being concerned in the supply of class A drugs and was jailed for seven years.

Information from the community led officers to a house in Wauncil Avenue, Bridgend, in January of this year, following reports that people from London had taken over an address to facilitate the supply of drugs into the local community.

At this address, officers found two 17-year-old girls from London. One of the teenagers told officers that she had been

promised the opportunity to earn up to £500 daily for supplying Class A drugs in Bridgend by someone called Rogue.

The address was searched and officers located wholesale amounts of Class A drugs; 90 wraps of crack cocaine and 24 wraps of heroin. They also seized £1,260 in cash and a BB gun.

As part of the investigation, extensive phone work was carried out which led officers to London and to the head of the Rogue county line - Kane Griffiths-Jeffries. He was arrested in April of this year in Eastbourne.

A phone was seized at the address Griffiths-Jeffries was arrested - this was the Rogue phone used to facilitate the supply of Class A drugs.

The court heard, Griffiths-Jeffries was the head of the county line, while Harris played a significant role acting as his man on the ground in Bridgend.

Both defendants were on licence at the time of these offences. DC James Hartery, officer in the case, said: "Tackling county lines drug dealing and associated criminality is a priority for South Wales Police. Kane Griffiths-Jeffries ran the county lines operation known as the Rogue line from London, using two 17-year-old girls to courier class A drugs to Bridgend.

"Thanks to community information we were able to safeguard those two teenagers and investigate Rogue's network. We hope today's sentences send a message to those thinking of coming to Bridgend - that we will not tolerate gangs operating within our area - and the Organised Crime Unit is committed to disrupting and dismantling these organisations.

"Gangs involved in county lines criminality deliberately target young and vulnerable children, whom they know are easy to groom, manipulate and control. Under Operation Guardian - the force's response to organised criminal gangs who target the most vulnerable in our society - we are committed to protecting those at risk in our communities, bringing gangs to justice and making South Wales a hostile environment for those seeking to do harm.

"Local communities have a vital role to play in helping us to do this. I'd urge the public to work with us, telling us what they know and sharing their suspicions and concerns. I can assure them that we can and do act upon the information provided to us and will be relentless in our pursuit of those who see south Wales as an easy target for plying their trade and profiting from others' misery."

Fraudster sentenced for fake police officer scam

A FRAUDSTER who scammed more than £20,000 from elderly victims is today starting a two-year custodial term.

Kye Harwood, 19, from London, was arrested in February following an investigation by detectives into a series of scams where fraudsters purport to be police officers conning elderly victims into handing over thousands of pounds.

Harwood pleaded guilty to three counts of fraud by false representation at a previous hearing and was sentenced at Cardiff Crown Court to 24 months in a young offenders institution. The defendant was part of a group who used a sophisticated and well-rehearsed scam which has been replicated across the UK.

Targeting vulnerable people with cold calls, scammers claim to be police officers, often telling their victims that there has been fraudulent activity on their bank account and that they needed to hand over substantial amounts of money to 'keep safe'.

The court heard a number of scam phone calls were made to residents in Penarth and Cardiff on February 7, 2019.

The three victims, aged between 81 and 96, were defrauded of £22,600.

An 83-year-old woman from Penarth, was defrauded of £4,600; a 96-year-old woman from Cardiff was defrauded of £8,000 and an 81-year-old woman from Penarth was defrauded of £10,000.

The alarm was raised locally by the neighbours of one of the victims

in Penarth, who was concerned to see their neighbour sat with thousands of pounds on the kitchen table, which was due to be collected by a man in a taxi. Thanks to their information, an alert was sent to local taxi firms to keep an eye out for a man matching Harwood's description.

Later on that day, Taxi firm Cab64 called police to report a man was trying to book a taxi to London from Penarth Road in Cardiff. Thanks to their assistance, an officer was sat waiting in the taxi to collect the defendant.

The defendant was arrested and found in possession of £10,000 in bank notes.

Detective Constable Amy Evans, officer in the case, said: "This was a callous and cruel crime in which Harwood preyed on elderly people in our communities. These incidents have had a profound effect upon the victims and has left them questioning who they can trust.

"I would like to thank the neighbours and the taxi firm who both alerted police to their suspicions. As a result of their information and assistance, officers were able to apprehend Harwood. Unfortunately, Harwood is not the only criminal using this type of scam. This is a sophisticated scam which is being used nationally.

"The fraudsters often tell their victims lies to relay to bank staff who question why they are wanting to withdraw significant amounts of cash - such as they are going to buy a car or are going on holiday."



For all the latest news from your area - glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Two carers' charities in Bridgend have merged

CROSSROADS Care Bridgend has merged with Carers Trust South East Wales to ensure the sustainability of specialist services for unpaid carers in Bridgend.

Crossroads has been providing services in Bridgend for over 25 years and the decision means carers can expect org.uk.

News from Nancy

COME along to Llangan on Saturday, August 31 and join in the fun at the dog show which will be held in the church field in the heart of the village.

Entry is £2 per class, the dog judges would most like to take home and gorgeous golden oldie, eight years plus. Best in show will be chosen from the winner in each class (judge Rachel Davis).

Classes are: cutest pup, best child handler, loveliest lady, most fabulous fella, waggiest tail, most awesome eyes, best paw shaker, best six legs,

Come along and join in the fun; refreshments available Nancy Davidge.

Bridgend MP writes on 'The compassionate applicance of science'

A L T H O U G H the DWP use to calculate penalised someone efforts of the MND not have to endure such someone through no fault of their own. They could simply Curie – the Government Just this week through job applications. Getting past the Association and Marie Curie and the RPA before being contacted to complete an

Parliament is in recess, it does not mean Members of Parliament stop working. Recess is the perfect time to be out and about meeting people and visiting local organisations.

One of the most pressing cases I've been dealing with has been related to the impact of Universal Credit (UC) on people in Bridgend. A single working mother who receives UC came to me after her payments were stopped in July. This was simply because her pay packet for May and June fell within the same assessment period which

will receive for UC. While she will have a higher UC payment this month, she will not receive her work allowance, a payment she desperately relies on to afford her childcare costs.

To put it plainly, she has missed out on one month's work allowance as two months wages have been counted in a single month's assessment period. She has also received nothing from her UC award for a whole month. She has told me that this

situation has forced her to sell furniture to pay her bills, but she still does not have enough money to pay her rent. The DWP have

disappointing, it is not all past experiences I have had with the DWP. It has been counted in a single month's assessment period. She has also received nothing from her UC award for a whole month. She has told me that this

It is a step in the right direction, but it does not detract from the fact that terminally ill people that there is significant Artificial Intelligence evidence of the system (AI) is slowly creeping failing people who are into all aspects of our dying. I have come lives. The DWP makes

At first the Government denied there was even people who have had to sit to 20 million people a year. It recently installed after numerous meetings to discuss their career robotic progress automation with Ministers, let-aspirations. Someone

30,000 new pension

claims in two weeks.

Fish supper and a new member for Laleston WI

LALESTON WI at 8.55am for our trip to Brecon on August 20 and final numbers were taken of members who wished to visit The Mansion House, Cardiff on Wednesday, October 2 to include afternoon tea.

plus one prospective new member. Final orders were taken for GFWI cal-

endars and diaries. Various items of interest were brought to the attention of members month was at Il Vecchio, from GFWI county letter. Bridgend; and the raffle A thank you e-mail had been received from Judith Lucas, thanking our first Thursday of each members for help given month at The Blandy at The Glamorgan Show. Hall, Laleston 7.15pm.

Members were More information reminded that the bus from Diane Marshall would leave the Odeon on 01656 656600.

For all the latest news from your area - glamorgan-gem.co.uk

How to be happy when you're miles high

AVOIDING alcohol, cutting caffeine and keeping yourself busy are all helpful hints for Brits worried about taking to the skies.

Travel experts from MyBaggage.com have revealed eight top tips to help nervous flyers jetting off around the world on holiday this summer.

For many travellers, being six miles up in the air and speeding across the clouds at hundreds of miles per hour can induce significant anxiety, but there are many steps that can be taken to deal with a fear of flying, which also include talking to flight attendants, breaking up the journey and distracting yourself.

A spokesperson for My Baggage said: "There's no shame in being scared of flying, even though it's one of the safest modes of transport available."

Thousands of people encounter the same fear of getting on to a plane every summer, so we've released eight pieces of advice to help manage

worries and have a more relaxing journey cut out the caffeine to sunny destinations altogether before and across the globe."

1. Avoid alcohol: Most people know that alcohol can cause noise of the cabin with headaches or feelings of sickness, as well as affecting your usual personality and actions.

The last thing nervous flyers need is to feel unwell or out of space, so ditch the air-port pint and forget the boozy drinks trolley.

2. Drink water: Dehydration can intensify stress and fatigue, particularly in low pressure environments like aeroplanes.

It's easy to become dehydrated during a flight because the air in a plane's cabin comes from outside and there's less moisture at higher altitude.

The solution is obviously to drink water. Make sure you've had a glass or two before boarding and try to sip throughout your journey.

3. Cut caffeine: Tea and coffee can accentuate stress and nervousness in uncomfortable situations, so it is wise

for nervous flyers to more relaxing journey cut out the caffeine to sunny destinations altogether before and across the globe."

4. Bring headphones: Shut out the noise of the cabin with your favourite music or an interesting podcast.

Bringing a set of headphones can allow you to take your mind off any worries for a bit, so sit back, shut character in a confined space, so ditch the air-port pint and forget the thought-provoking.

5. Keep busy: Another way to distract yourself from your fear of flying is to simply find any excuse to keep your mind and body occupied.

Get out of your seat and walk around the cabin, read a book or even the in-flight magazine, make friends with your fellow passengers, play games on an electronic device or do a puzzle.

6. Talk to flight attendants: The most experienced flyers on the plane will probably be the staff working for the airline, so take a

try to get up early on the day of your journey so you're tired by take-off – then shut your eyes and you'll be halfway there before you even realise it.

Patron's festival held in Lavernock



THE little former Church of St Lawrence at Lavernock resounded to some fine singing last Sunday when the Festival of St Lawrence was celebrated.

Madeleine Moon MP

Kevin contrasted our current focus on speedy communication by mobile phone (we can get impatient when the device does not work) with the need to take time building up a relationship with God and learning patience.

Anne Thomas worked her usual magic on the harmonium and the church was beautifully decorated with flowers from Julian (The Florist of Penarth). Many thanks to him and the members of the working group who cleaned the church in preparation for the service and spoke in his sermon about communication – introduced by reference to the plaque remembering Lawrence for looking Marconi that is set into the churchyard wall. Rev Margaret Stark

Join the Quiz League!

BRIDGEND Quiz League is inviting teams and individuals to attend a social evening on September 2 at 8pm for an entertaining, free general knowledge quiz followed by a complementary buffet at Tondu Railway Club, Station Approach, Tondu CF32 9DY.

If you are a quizzer with three or four like minded friends, able to form a team within a pub or club in Bridgend County Borough and available on Monday nights between late September and April, you might like to register for the upcoming 2019/20 season. Entry for the whole season is £40 a team, approximately 40p a person per quiz.

HERE are this week's teasers:

1. Granadilla is another name for which fruit?
2. Who played Jack Ryan in the film 'The Hunt for Red October'?
3. In a pack of cards how many jacks' eyes can be seen?

Answers: 1. Passion fruit. 2. Alec Baldwin. 3. 12.

Worried students turn to Childline for advice and help

THE number of children and young people in Wales who are turning to Childline with worries about exam results has risen for the fourth consecutive year.

The free and confidential counselling service, supported by the NSPCC, delivered 50 sessions to children from Wales on the topic of exam result worries in 2018/19.

However, the number could be higher as more than 200 children and young people did not state which UK nation they were calling from.

The number of contacts to Childline from children and young people in Wales has risen by more than 16 per cent on the previous year, and by more than 56 per since 2015/16.

Across the entire UK, Childline delivered 1,414 counselling sessions to those apprehensive about their grades – rising by more than a half over the past four years – in 2018/19.

Concern peaked in August, with a fifth of counselling sessions taking place during the month when young people receive their A-Level and GCSE results.

Reasons for young people seeking help from Childline include worries about whether they will get the grades they need to get into university and not wanting to let down their teachers and parents.

Children and young people also told counsellors they felt worked up and on edge, with some saying they were not able to sleep because of the stress of getting results.

Dame Esther Rantzen, the founder and president of Childline, said: "I am sure we all felt nervous at exam time, but the possibility of failure has taken on a greater importance than ever before, and is deeply worrying our children."

"Young people are turning to Childline when they become so anxious that they are overcome with panic or lose precious sleep. And this is reflected in the rising number of Childline's counselling sessions."

"I would like to remind young people that whatever happens with their exam results there will be plenty of opportunities for them to go on and succeed in their lives."

"We all have different strengths and qualities that make us who we are."



"Childline is there for them if they don't know who else they can talk to. If it matters to you then it matters to us."

Des Mannion, the head of NSPCC Cymru/Wales, said: "We know that waiting for and receiving exam results can be a difficult time for young people, but they should never feel like they have to deal with these worries alone."

"Reaching out to a parent, teacher or by contacting us at Childline will hopefully put things in perspective and make them feel more positive about receiving their exam results and what comes next."

Concerns Welsh students will miss out on exchange programme

THE Welsh and Scottish Governments have raised serious concerns about the impact of a 'no-deal' Brexit on the popular Europe-wide international student exchange programme Erasmus+.

In a letter sent to Secretary of State for Education Gavin Williamson, Education Minister Kirsty Williams and Scottish Further and Higher Education Minister Richard Lochhead argue the case for continued participation in the programme.

students and staff in Wales to undertake mobility visits to benefit their learning and career development.

Kirsty Williams, the Education Minister, said:

"Over the last five years an estimated 10,000 students and staff in Wales have benefited from participation in the Erasmus+ programme.

"The UK Government is responsible for the UK financial contribution for Erasmus+ but with only weeks to go before we leave the EU there are still no plans for a national replacement scheme."

"If the Prime Minister insists on crashing out of the EU without a deal it could cause severe damage to the prospects of university students, staff and the communities across Wales in which our universities play an integral part."

"We are calling on the Secretary of State for Education to meet with us as a matter of urgency to ensure Wales and Scotland remain full participants in this important programme."

Between 2014 and 2018, Erasmus+ has enabled an estimate of over 10,000



Samantha B

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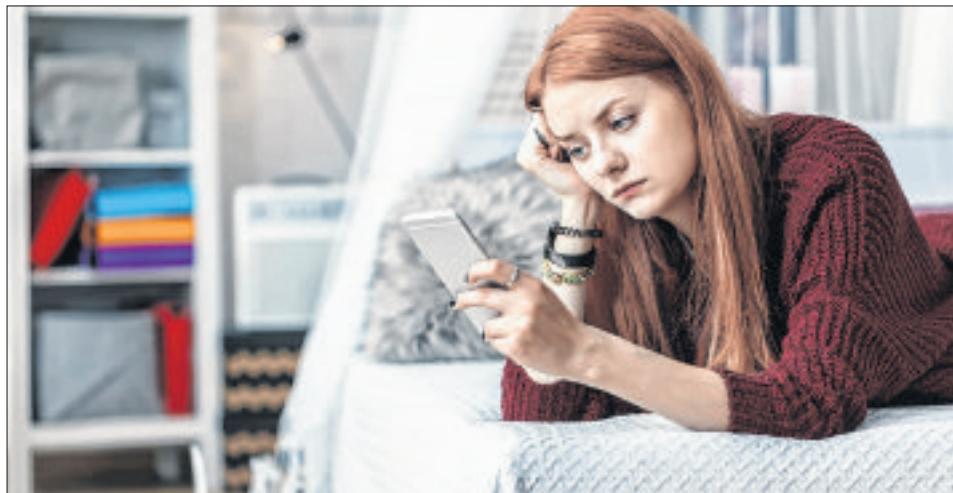
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DEAR Fiona

COLUMNIST and trained counsellor Fiona Caine offers guidance on the the problems of modern life



DEAR Fiona

How can I deal with the letdown of being overlooked for promotion?

I don't know whether to be sad or mad, but I think I need advice on what to do next. For the last four years I've worked for the same company, and I can honestly say I've worked my socks off for them.

I thought they appreciated my efforts and that when the time is right, I'd get rewarded for them. However, perhaps they don't see things the same way because about six weeks ago, there was an opportunity for promotion to a role I know I was good for.

I applied, was interviewed, but didn't get the job, and they've given the position to an outsider - someone who doesn't even know the company!

I feel quite ill about all this and half of me wants to resign, but I can't do that until I have another job to go to. On top of that, I really like the work I do and get on well with my colleagues - many of whom have become friends.

It's the people in charge (the bosses), not my colleagues, who have let me down. I don't know what to do for the best and I feel quite sick and hurt every time I go into the office now. How do I get through this?

S.E.

Fiona says - You're hurt right now but could this be an opportunity to grow?

I wonder if you've asked for feedback from your interview. Without that, you'll never know what the decision process might have been.

It may be that the person appointed has exactly the right experience and skills they were looking for, or even something, in addition, that they feel would help in the role.

It could be that - for some tactical reason - they wanted an outsider in the role. It could be that you need to acquire some additional skills in order to progress - but unless you ask, you won't know.

You've only applied once for a promotion, so to think of yourself as 'unappreciated' isn't - in my view - necessarily fair on those in charge. Length of service and even company loyalty is not a justification for promoting someone to a role someone else is better suited for.

It's possible that they have something else in mind for you too, so to react angrily now might lose you the chance of something even better.

I'm sure that, in the past, you've been knocked down and had to pull yourself up again. Try and remind yourself of those occasions and I'm sure you'll find the strength of mind to come through this.

You certainly don't want to jump ship whilst you're feeling shocked and unsure - if you do, you might well make a wrong career move. It's always better to move on when your confidence is high, that way

you will be choosier about the job you go for and more attractive to a new employer.

You can acknowledge that you feel hurt right now but don't let that define you, as you need to gain some perspective on what has happened here. Time will help with that.

As I suggested, ask for an appointment with your boss and ask for feedback from your interview. Use the opportunity to talk about your prospects and about your aspirations. Ask what you need to do in order to move further in the company; would they, for example, be willing to offer you further training?

And if they aren't, use the information you gain to consider whether you should take further training on your own - perhaps in evening classes or by correspondence.

Even if you're unhappy about the outcome of the meeting, don't hand in your notice immediately. Take your time to reflect on what is said to you and see if it's justified. When you've recovered your self-confidence is the time to consider re-applying for a promotion or, alternatively, looking elsewhere for a better position.

DEAR Fiona

Is a Dad sharing baths with a toddler daughter a cause for concern?

I'm really not sure about a situation that's going on in my daughter's family and I'd appreciate some advice. My son-in-law mentioned recently that he often had great fun sharing a bath with my three-year-old granddaughter. It seems that they have always done this and, whilst it is almost certainly totally innocent, I am worried that it might lead to child abuse.

I am probably over-reacting, but it seems that there is a new story every week in the news about child abuse and how, in nearly all cases, it's a family member or someone known to them. Should I speak to my daughter? The little girl seems so happy with her dad and the last thing I want to do is spoil it all.

However, neither do I want to simply ignore this if there is the slightest possibility that my granddaughter is being abused.

C.O.

Fiona says - Shared baths are sometimes part of early family life.

Sharing a bath is not, of itself, a cause for concern. It's usually great fun for all concerned and for parents, it serves the additional purpose of getting the child clean!

It will, of course, involve cleaning those parts of the child that will, at some stage, become private. But it's important to remember that washing is just that - getting clean. It is not abuse and it is important that we remember it is right and proper for parents of both sexes to dress, wash, feed, cuddle and kiss their children.

When the child is used for the adult's sexual pleasure or gratification, or when his or her wishes are disregarded, then abuse is happening.

There is probably no harm though in raising the issue quietly with your daughter. Perhaps something along the lines of, 'I'm sure being in the bath with X is fun but he must be prepared to stop when she is no longer comfortable with it.'

If you see any clues at all that your granddaughter is distressed around her father, then do contact the NSPCC Child Protection Helpline on 0808 800 5000.

I would strongly suggest you seek advice from them before taking any action such as contacting the police.

Their website (nspcc.org.uk) is full of information you might find useful - particularly the 'Preventing abuse section'. It may help to dispel your fears to read it through even though - as things stand - the relationship is probably entirely innocent.

DEAR Fiona

My boyfriend want sex but I'm not ready. For the past three months I have been going out with a great-looking guy. He's my first proper boyfriend and all my friends say I'm lucky to be with him and that I should do everything I can to hang onto him.

I'm 16 and have been out with guys before but never for as long as this. We get on really well together and we've started to talk about sex. The thing is, he's keen for us to have sex now but I don't feel quite ready yet.

I am not very experienced, and I'm worried he'll lose interest in me if I don't go along with it.

W.R.

Fiona says - Please don't feel pressured. If you aren't ready, you aren't ready, and any boyfriend who tries to force you isn't worth having! It is never acceptable for anybody to pressure another person into having sex if they don't want to.

I suggest you try and find someone older, with a bit more experience to talk about this - you probably can't talk to your mum (although it would be great if you could), so I'd suggest contacting Brook (brook.org.uk). It's a charity that specialises in helping young people with their sexual health and wellbeing.

Remember, before you do start having sex, it's important to find out about contraception and sexual health protection, as well as sexual activity itself.

Please don't feel pressured into sex by your boyfriend.

If he genuinely cares for you, he should be prepared to wait until you are ready.

As for your friends, ignore what they say about hanging on to him at any cost. Doing what feels right for you is far more important.

Good manners more important than DIY

TRADITIONAL qualities such as DIY skills and old-fashioned romance are being cast aside by modern men, as being a feminist, opening-up about emotions and having perfect manners are branded the ultimate signs of an accomplished man in 2019, according to Welsh residents.

Being able to cook, having a loving family and being good at housework are also considered key attributes men should aspire towards if they are to be considered as successful in 21st century life, according to the latest research into what makes an accomplished man.

David Attenborough and Barak Obama have been voted by Welsh residents as the most accomplished men in modern society, with Philip Schofield and Bill Gates following closely behind. However, the list includes some surprise entries in the form of Tyson Fury, Peter Andre, Drake, and Nigel Farage. Interestingly, the UK's new Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, did not rank highly, with less than two percent of adults voting him as the most accomplished man in modern society.

Research among Welsh residents, commissioned by leading name label company, My NameTags (<https://www.mynametags.com/>), found that the definition of success is changing. For instance, many men claim not to share their fathers' aptitude for traditionally masculine jobs, with over half relying on the older generation to assist them with practical tasks, such as putting up shelves and changing car tyres.

When it comes to life skills, men in Wales admitted to being poor at managing finances and negotiating with tradesmen when compared to their father. They also feel inferior when it comes to dressing well. In fact, Wales is the only region in the UK where men feel they don't dress as well as their fathers. Women, on the other hand, wish that their other halves were as good at being romantic, chivalrous and well-groomed as previous generations.

However, the modern man has more success than their predecessors when it comes to household chores, with as many as 89 percent arguing that they are better than their fathers at either cooking, food shopping, laundry or

doing housework.

Both men and women agree that the modern man is more in touch with his emotions than his father. In fact, being able to talk openly about feelings is considered one of the most important skills required to be an accomplished man in today's society. Over 43 percent of Welsh adults agree that being open about mental health is an essential attribute.

Being a good father (48 percent), great manners (44 percent), being happy (41 percent), and having confidence (35 percent) are also considered key.

As many as 60 percent agreed that the definition of an accomplished man has changed since their father's generation. Being a feminist, feeling comfortable playing with dolls and knowing their partner's dress size all made the list of attributes men need to be considered accomplished in 2019.

Given these findings, it comes as no surprise that 51 percent of those surveyed also agree that the definitions of an accomplished man and an accomplished woman have gotten closer over the last generation.

In terms of the national research, the study found that having no ambition is the number one quality guaranteed to ruin a man's chances of being seen as accomplished. However, it seems some traditional stereotypes still exist with not being able to drive, struggling to fix things and showing emotions in public also making the list of faux pas.

A rigorous grooming routine can also negatively impact our perception of men. Wearing fake tan, waxing eyebrows and having manicures were flagged as some of the top habits that make a modern man less appealing.

Despite Piers Morgan mocking Daniel Craig for carrying his baby in a papoose by tweeting he had 'emasculated Bond', the nation disagrees. Only four percent believe carrying children in a baby sling makes them less of an ideal modern man, while being a good father was one of the top attributes.

When it comes to parenting, almost three quarters of dads believe they do things with their children that their father didn't - further demonstrating the difference between the generations.

These include cooking for them (24 percent), taking them to school (21 percent) and helping them with their schoolwork at either cooking, food shopping, laundry or

spend more time with their children than their fathers did (20 percent).

Modern fathers take a more hands-on approach to parenting. Changing nappies, playing with their children, doing their hair and sticking name labels on their uniforms were all flagged as key tasks that they do more than fathers from previous generations.

It seems that the modern father is also passing on different attributes to their children than previous generations. Being respectful topped the list, closely followed by being kind, thoughtful and a good parent.

These contrast to the qualities men feel have been passed down by their own fathers. Being respectful still makes the list but sits alongside more traditional traits, including having a good work ethic and a strong moral compass.

Commenting on the research, Lars B. Andersen, Founder and Managing Director at My NameTags, said: "We were interested to discover what traits define an accomplished man in today's society after seeing a surge in men buying name labels for their children. As we suspected, the results clearly demonstrate that the role of the modern man is evolving, with many choosing to get involved in household tasks, such as sticking on name labels. It is heartening to see the definition of an accomplished man becoming much more diverse and inclusive, showing a clear move away from traditional stereotypes."

"The campaign follows on from research undertaken by My NameTags last year into the changing role of the accomplished woman. Interestingly, the results clearly demonstrate that there is less disparity between the qualities associated with being accomplished across both men and women than ever before. Instead, many Brits favour emotional achievements, such as being happy and being comfortable talking about their emotions, over the traditional marks of success associated with their gender."

Despite a clear increase in the modern father's involvement with household tasks, opinions remain divided on the word 'househusband'. As many as 41 percent of men agree they would be happy to be referred to by this term if they were taking time out of employment to focus on family life.



Porthcawl man's English Channel swim for charity that was close to his heart

A MAN from Porthcawl completed a swim across the English Channel earlier this month, finishing the challenge in 15 hours, writes Philip Irwin.

Tom Chapman has been a regular on the Porthcawl open water swimming scene for several years, ever since moving to Porthcawl from Bath seven years ago and he set his sights on the Channel swim some time ago.

However, to get a time slot, he had to book two years ago! In fact, the waiting time now has crept up to three years.

Obviously, the desire to challenge himself was his motivation. Tom has always been a keen triathlete, but an injury meant that he started to concentrate more on swimming.

It was during his preparation period that Tom had an extra, family motivation, when his partner Lindsay told him that her father, a fit man in his mid-70s, had been diagnosed with mesothelioma.

She told The GEM: "Dad has run the Porthcawl Parkrun regularly – not something most people in their 70s can do – but he went to the doctor with a persistent cough, and hospital tests confirmed mesothelioma. What he thought was a cough, turned out to be a warning that one of his lungs was filling up with fluid."

Lindsay's father has had excellent support from the charity Mesothelioma UK, who arrange for specialist nurses to be available. At the moment he is in hospital in England, taking part in a clinical trial to test a new treatment for the condition.

As a result, Tom's cross channel swim became more than a personal test of his stamina and determination. He decided to also raise money for the charity.

The mechanics of a channel swim are more than just turning up in your Speedos. There are a limited number of pilots who take charge of the boat and keep the party safe, and only four swimmers are accepted per week.

If the weather is bad the week you book, then they will try and squeeze you in the next week, but if that fails it is back to the waiting list.

Swims are one way only, starting in Dover. The French decided some time ago to stop swimmers leaving from their beaches. Nevertheless, they insist that everyone must have a passport with them – even though the support team stays on the boat and the swimmer (as happened in Tom's case) steps ashore long enough to have confirmatory photos taken, and then swims back out to the boat!

Wetsuits are frowned upon. There is an official ratification list, but resorting to one will mean that you are not included.

Once the swim has started, no one is allowed to touch the swimmer and he can't touch the boat. He can be thrown food and water (Tom found a series of carbohydrate drinks worked best for him).

The 'no touching' rule means that, although he started the swim in darkness at about 1am, Tom had to have sun cream applied at that time, as the photograph shows. It's 21 miles across but no one has ever got close to that short route. The tide pushes you north at the start, and when it turns, swimmers get pushed well south of Calais.

In Tom's case, he covered about 44 miles, and finished the swim in 15 hours.

He said: "I believe that on one of the record crossings, the swimmer covered about 28 miles. The tides must have been gentler that day."

Tom's regular open water swimming in Porthcawl meant that he was well prepared for the challenge. The Bristol Channel is known for its massive tides, so there was nothing to surprise him.

He said: "I was lucky with the jellyfish. I was stung once in the dark, in the face, so I have no idea what that was, and at one point I had to swim through a shoal* of them, but I escaped."

He was surprised to see how close car ferries and oil tankers came, but again he did not get thrown off his stroke. His forearms, he reported, got tired, but he kept going steadily. Ironically, on the support boat there was far more pain and suffering, due to a heavy swell that lasted for the first five hours or so.

On the boat was Lewis Brown, another Porthcawl resident who swims regularly with Tom.

He said: "We all felt seasick for most of the time

over those first five hours, and there were quite a few occasions when people retired to the other side of the boat from Tom to be sick over the side."

The tide means that swimmers have little choice over where they land. In Tom's case, he found himself heading towards cliffs some way south of Calais. He spotted a sheltered cove and, although the boat needed to stay a safe 200 metres from the shore, Lewis swam those last few hundred metres, keeping a distance from Tom so as not to break the 'no touch' rule.

Tom found a safe place to land and Lewis passed him his flag for a celebratory photo, and then they swam back to the boat. A total of 44 miles and an extra 200 metres!

Now that he has mastered this challenge, Tom has no desire to stop. He still swims regularly in the sea off Porthcawl – sometimes twice a day if the tides are right.

He said: "We usually start from the slipway by the RNLI station. A short swim is across the bay and back – about a mile, but we have swum to Monkash, that's about 10 miles."

A swim around the Channel Island of Jersey is planned in for next August. That is about 44 miles but, Tom says, the tides mean that for a large part of the swim, you are 'going with the flow' of a favourable current.

Tom does have a warning, though, for anyone planning to try open water swimming in the area around Porthcawl.

He said: "Don't try it alone until you have joined one of the regular groups who know the coast and who can talk you through the pitfalls. The Bristol Channel has huge tides and you need to know what you are doing!"

Anyone wishing to donate to Tom's charity can do so through www.justgiving.com/fundraising/toms-channel-swim.

* It appears that the collective noun for jellyfish is either 'flutter' or 'smack'. I've used neither on the grounds that those names are just a bit silly

– PI



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Lots to do at St John's House in Bridgend

AT St John's House, Bridgend, many forthcoming events are planned:

Open Days 11am – 3pm on: August 31, September 8, September 28 and 29; October 13 and 26.

Quiz evenings are held on the third Friday of every month at 8pm at the United Services Club, Tondu Road. (Note: this is held in the room upstairs, there is no lift.)

16th August 16, September 20, October 18, November 15 and December 20.

In the shop, Ewenny pottery exclusively made for St John's House is available to buy: Goblet £21, Beaker £14, Mugs (two designs) £14.

We are now selling second hand books, and donations of books are welcome. We are also looking for another 6 foot tall bookcase – please let us know if you can help.

We will be holding a craft fair on Saturday, August 31 at Carnegie House, Wyndham Street, Bridgend from 11am – 5pm. Tables are £20, email

saintjohns@hotmail.co.uk or call 07510 248315 (answerphone) if you would like to book a table.

From Thursday, October 31 until Wednesday, November 6 a series of events will include poetry, storytelling, music and will be held in the House as part of our revival of St Leonard's Fair, which was held annually on St Leonard's Day, November 6; known to have existed in the 16th century (St Leonard of Noblac, to whom Newcastle Church was dedicated in the Middle Ages).

In his book 'Bridgend The Story of a Market Town', HJ Randall said in 1955: "It had two fairs on Ascension Day and St Leonard's Day, which existed until within living memory; they were superseded by modern and far less picturesque methods of marketing."

Open Doors take place on Saturday and Sunday September 28/29 when we will be taking part in a CADW Open Doors event.

Look out for some interesting activities in the house!

It's party time at a Pontcanna care home

ACARE home in Pontcanna is holding a special daytime summer party for its residents and opening its doors to the town tomorrow.

Tŷ Llandaff, a private nursing, residential and respite care home, is inviting members of the community to drop in for the special event on Friday, August 16.

The party will include light refreshments with croissants and coffee from 10am and a barbecue from 12 noon. There will be entertainment from 2pm including singing, dancing and music

before the event closes at 4pm. celebrate summer and a wonderful

Staff at Tŷ Llandaff in Conway Road are hoping the day will encourage more people to visit the home, allowing residents to socialise with different people, while giving guests the chance to see what life is really like at the home.

The summer party is just one of the many events organised by the home as part of its extensive social events calendar run by Tŷ Llandaff activities co-ordinator Melanie Geoghegan. Come rain or shine, summer will be in full swing at Tŷ Llandaff. It promises to be a great day.

For more information about Tŷ Llandaff call Lisa on 02920 600 100, email info@tyllandaffcare.com or visit

Lisa Cristina said: "The party will be a lovely way for residents to www.tyllandaffcare.com.

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Tabby's Star in the limelight

WE'LL take a break from cosmology or astronomy anniversaries this month and instead turn our attention to a star which has been a source of fascination since the discovery of its unusual behaviour by the astronomer Tabetha Boyajian on October 14, 2015.

More than 4,000 exo-planets have now been discovered orbiting distant stars, most of which were found by the transit method. When a planet passes in front of its parent star, some of the star's light will disappear for a short while. These transits are a prolific method for planet hunters to search for worlds around other stars.

NASA's Kepler mission was a gamechanger in the hunt for exo-planets, surveying over 100,000 stars over a period of many years. Of the hundreds of thousands of stars that NASA's Kepler space telescope observed, astronomers were completely unprepared for the oddity that is Tabby's Star, whose light flux dims by a tremendous amount, without any of the regularly repeating signals which are the expected signature of planets transiting their stars in regular orbits.

The dips in light flux from Tabby's Star are observed to be of the order of 22 per cent, whereas the customary dip in light caused by exo-planets is less than 1 per cent. Prior to this new discovery

of flux dips, Tabby's Star was already of interest because its overall brightness has been noticeably dimming over many decades.

Astronomers concluded that the flux dips couldn't be caused by planets, because no planet is large enough to block that much light from its star. Speculation ensued that a series of cometary events, where they emit large amounts of dust as they approach the inner portion of the solar system in question, might explain the short-term flux dips that have been seen. But this proposed solution cannot also account for the above mentioned decades old dimming of the star.

Another popular idea advanced was that of an alien megastructure. It could be that a civilization far ahead of humanity, technologically, was constructing an apparatus around the star to capture and harness its full energy output. Known as a Dyson Sphere, such a structure would increase the amount of light blocked as it became more and more complete. Over the past century, the fact that the light from this star had dimmed by such a significant amount could then be explained by an advance in the completion of a Dyson Sphere. Far-fetched? Perhaps, but a compelling idea nevertheless.

Thanks to a myriad of follow-up observations, however, a more mundane explanation is finding favour. Whereas an alien megastructure would be opaque to all light, it has been found that

blue light is preferentially blocked in all the dimming events from Tabby's Star. There's one thing known that can cause bluer light to be blocked while redder light is preferentially transmitted - dust particles of a certain minimal size. It must, therefore, be dust which is causing not only the flux dips, but also the long-term fading.

Mystery remains, however, as circumstellar dust is a feature of a young, forming solar system. Tabby's Star is known to be hundreds of millions years old and is well advanced on its main sequence - so where is the dust coming from? No-one knows.

And now, there is another, very recent, mystery! Planet hunting astronomer Hugh Osborn announced a stellar discovery at the end of June, 2019 that looks to be even more baffling than Tabby's Star. Also seen by Kepler, this star, dubbed the Random Transiter, was found to undergo no less than 28 transits in just 87 days.

The associated light dips look just like those expected from planets, but there is absolutely no evidence of the regular periodic orbits which are expected of planets. So what's going on here? If they are not planets, what are they?

So far there is no credible theory. An early revisit to the Random Transiter is anxiously awaited.

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Top tips for Clearing

A LEVEL results day can

seem daunting, especially when it comes to securing your place at university through Clearing. It doesn't have to be stressful though, and with a few top tips, choosing where to study can be a much smoother process.

1. **Keep calm and get on the phone!** – A Level results day can be hectic, so it's important you are calm when you make your calls. Get a pen and paper at the ready, charge your phone and find a quiet room to contact your alternative universities.

2. **Do your research** – Familiarise yourself with the UCAS website, as it is here you will find course vacancies. Make notes of which courses you are interested in, even if you do not expect to need them.

3. **Get advice** – If you're unsure about what steps to take next, ask someone who can offer you advice. Your teachers, careers advisers, parents and universities are all good sources.

4. **Have all your details to hand** – Make sure you have your contact details, the Clearing number from UCAS Track, log in details from UCAS Track, the phone number for the university, your own contact details and your

results.

5. **Make notes** – You'll get a lot of information during the calls you make, so jotting it all down will ensure you have enough to refer back to when making a final choice.

6. **Have constructive questions to ask** – Try to think of questions which matter to you: for example the course structure, can you do placement years, what are the accommodation options.

7. **Make your call yourself** – the University will not be able to talk to someone else on your behalf (even your Mum!).

8. **Confirm everything** – remember to get email confirmation of your university offer, and also ask them how long the offer is valid for. Ask when you can apply for accommodation and ask when the offer will appear on UCAS.

9. **Make your choice in the allotted time** – In addition, most universities will give you a time period (typically 12-48 hours) for which their offer is valid and you must accept your offer during that period.

10. **Visit the universities you are considering** – If possible, it is a great idea to arrange to visit the universities you are interested in as this is a good way to get a real understanding for the feel and atmosphere of the university, as well as their culture and the way their courses are taught.

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Over 90 per cent of children visit a dentist regularly, while only 53 per cent of children have ever had an eye examination. (Johnson & Johnson, Vision Care Survey 2009.)

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LOCAL specialist shops are disappearing at an alarming rate from town centres because shoppers do not actually visit these shops to see both what they actually stock and what their prices are like.

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come to the price of an anyone's budget. We instrument: what a lot of also open packaging, shoppers do not know is inspect the instrument that musical instrument and tune it, making sure manufacturers usually everything is perfect give a much better trade for the new learner – as discount to those 'bricks & mortar' businesses, youngsters trying to learn against those who run on an instrument that is online shops; therefore not set up or adjusted correctly.

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back to
School



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Out & About with The GEM

IT'S ON AT THE CINEMA

DAMON Smith reviews the latest releases. This week: director Quentin Tarantino reimagines a dark chapter in Tinseltown history with Leonardo DiCaprio, Brad Pitt and Margot Robbie in Once Upon a Time in Hollywood, a plucky teenager (Isabela Moner) follows in the footsteps of her explorer parents to locate hidden treasure in Dora and the Lost City of Gold, adolescent pals discover the art of kissing a girl in the raucous comedy Good Boys and beauty comes from within in the empowering computer-animated musical adventure Ugly Dolls

PA Photo/Paramount Players, a division of Paramount Pictures/Vince Valitutti. All Rights Reserved.

Once Upon a Time in Hollywood

For years, two-time Oscar winner Quentin Tarantino has been publicly declaring his intention to retire after 10 films in the director's chair.

That day of reckoning moves ever closer with the release of his supposedly penultimate picture, a valentine to the golden age of Hollywood, which unsports the exploits of

a fictional actor and his stunt double against the real-life backdrop of the Manson family murders in the summer of 1969.

Fact and blood-soaked fantasy are rumbustious playmates in Tarantino's script, which momentarily orbits bona fide stars including Bruce Lee (Mike Moh) and Steve McQueen (Damian Lewis), and saves its most daring flourish for a sickeningly brutal finale that includes a close-up

of a face being smashed repeatedly into a stone mantelpiece.

Since his eye-catching debut with Reservoir Dogs - a trim 97 minutes - brevity has seldom been the writer-director's strong point and Once Upon A Time... In Hollywood falls foul of self-indulgent excesses

that should perhaps have been addressed in the editing room.

Tarantino conjures moments of nerve-shredding tension that demonstrate his master of the craft, peaking with two prolonged sequences with Manson's acolytes that tighten the large knot of tension in our stomachs.

Rick Dalton (Leonardo DiCaprio), one-time star of TV western Bounty Law, becomes convinced that his career is over after an uncomfortable meeting with straight-talking agent Marvin Schwarz (Pacino).

The handsome leading man drowns his sorrows with best friend and stunt double Cliff Booth (Brad Pitt), who also acts as his chauffeur.

Cliff attempts to buoy Rick's spirits as he prepares for a guest spot as the 'bad guy' on new TV series Lancer, starring James Stacy (Timothy Olyphant).

Meanwhile, director

Roman Polanski (Rafal Zawierucha) and pregnant actress Sharon Tate (Margot Robbie) move into the neighbouring property to Rick, where they entertain a succession of friends including hairstylist Jay Sebring (Emile Hirsch).

On the night of August 9, Charles Manson (Damon Herriman) dispatches four knife-wielding disciples - Tex (Austin Butler), Sadie (Mikey Madison), Flower Child (Maya Hawke) and Katie (Madsen Beatty) - to kill everyone inside the rented property at 10050 Cielo Drive.

Narrated by Kurt Russell's stunt coordinator, Once Upon A Time... In Hollywood takes poetic licence with historical fact to pen a gushing love letter to the art of filmmaking.

Period detail is impressive, epitomised by a groovy soundtrack of late 1960s toe tappers including Vanilla Fudge's cover of The Supremes' You Keep Me Hangin' On.

Pacing occasionally drags but DiCaprio and Pitt enliven lulls with terrific performances as fading products of a Californian dream factory, who are staring down their inevitable decline with a combustive mix of weariness and frustration.

Like the auteur behind the lens, the end credits on their creative endeavours are almost ready to roll.

- SWEARING
- NO SEX ::
- VIOLENCE ::
- RATING: 8/10

Good Boys

Good boys go bad in director Gene Stupnitsky's pot-faced coming-of-age comedy, a haphazard misadventure in the company of three pre-teen pals on the precipice of puberty.

Producers Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg traversed similarly messy territory in Superbad with older characters bound for college.

In Stupnitsky's script, co-written by Lee Eisenberg, the unsettling transition from fifth to sixth grade provides a loose dramatic framework for lurid life lessons for a cherubic trinity, whose hilariously misinformed understanding of (the opposite) sex has been gleaned from playground hearsay.

For these Good Boys, the forbidden fruit of an internet search for pornography on a parents' laptop has yet to be tasted and the closest they have come to experimentation is giving one of their computer game

avatars a pair of painfully pendulous love cushions.

The youngsters

naively mistake a full-size sex doll for a CPR aid - providing the film with its first gross-out punchline - and fashion a chain of their parents' secondhand pleasure beads into an oversized pink necklace for one potential love interest.

Her wincing response to the jewellery's pungent aroma provides another collective groan of disgust.

Max (Jacob Tremblay), Thor (Bradley Noon) and Lucas (Keith Williams) are founder members of The Bean Bag Boys, a close-knit crew of hormone-addled 12-year-olds who live on the same block.

They ride around the neighbourhood, trying to act cool so they can avoid the most inglorious fate for any newly promoted sixth grader: becoming a 'social piranha'.

To that end, Max is delighted to be personally invited to a kissing party thrown by cool kid Soren (Izaac Wang) and he persuades the host to add Thor and Lucas to the guest list.

There's just one hitch, none of The Bean Bag Boys have ever locked lips with a girl and they worry their inexperience will be their undoing.

Max has a brainwave:

he will pilot his father's drone and spy on Hannah (Molly Gordon), who lives down the street.

"My neighbour's a nymphomaniac," Max confidently explains to his wide-eyed buddies.

"She has sex on land and sea."

Unfortunately, Max crash-lands his old man's prized gizmo and Hannah and gal pal Lilly (Midori Francis) hold the drone hostage.

Their chosen ransom is a bottle of ecstasy pills from Hannah's knucklehead boyfriend, Benji (Josh Caras).

Good Boys relies heavily on sex toys for laughs and the novelty of these items in the hands of unsuspecting tykes does wear thin.

Tremblay, Noon and Williams pickpocket generous laughs with their escapades.

At almost every turn, they are blissfully unaware of the seriousness of their predicament apart from one set-piece, a madcap dash across three lanes of a fast-moving highway, that comes uncomfortably close to being misjudged.

Thankfully, the characters and Stupnitsky's film emerge relatively unscathed.

- SWEARING
- SEX
- VIOLENCE
- RATING: 6/10

Dora and the Lost City of Gold

Educational cartoon series Dora The Explorer, which teaches preschoolers basic Spanish through repetition, is reimagined as a rollicking live-action adventure a la Raiders Of The Lost Ark by director James Bobin and scriptwriters Matthew Robinson and Nicholas Stoller.

By turns funny, charming, puerile and knowing, Dora And The Lost City Of Gold is a hugely entertaining romp that caters to all ages, including little ones familiar with the TV version and its irrepressible heroine, who repeatedly breaks the fourth wall to talk directly to viewers.

This curious habit of addressing the camera is played for laughs in Bobin's breathlessly paced film.

"Can you say delicious?" Dora urges us over the breakfast table in an

early scene.

"She'll grow out of it," her confused father tells himself. Of course, she does.

Isabela Moner brings a winning combination of bright-eyed optimism and steely resolve to her incarnation of the title character, who merrily introduces herself during a stampede of pygmy elephants.

Dora (Moner) is raised in the jungle by archaeologist parents Cole (Michael Pena) and Elena (Eva Longoria).

They are poised to embark on a perilous expedition to locate the lost Peruvian civilisation of Parapata, which ancient texts describe as the hiding place of more gold than the rest of the world combined.

Dora hopes to join her folks but Elena calmly counsels her daughter: "You have the whole world to explore. Go see it, make friends."

Consequently, Dora flies to Los Angeles to stay with her cousin Diego (Jeff Wahlberg), where the concrete jungle's greatest challenge is navigating the warring tribes of the local high school.

Soon after, Cole and Elena vanish without trace and Dora becomes the unwitting heroine of her own hare-brained adventure, accompanied by Diego and misfit classmates Sammy (Madeleine Madden) and Randy (Nicholas Coombe).

Dora And The Lost City Of Gold is full of hidden treasures including tongue-in-cheek performances from a culturally diverse cast, gently simmering romance and toilet humour including a jaunty song about digging a poo hole in the wild.

Moner illuminates every derivative frame of a story that affectionately plunders Indiana Jones, The Goonies, National Treasure and Tomb Raider for booby trap-laden thrills.

Bobin makes light work of the 102-minute running time with parents likely to enjoy it even more than their pre-schoolers.

Lah and learn.

- NO SWEARING
- NO SEX
- VIOLENCE ::
- RATING: 7/10



GAMES OF THE WEEK

BEN Catley-Richardson tries new releases
Wolfenstein: Youngblood, Elder Scrolls Online: Elsweyr, Marvel Ultimate Alliance 3: The Black Order and Beho.

Wolfenstein: Youngblood

Platform: PC, Xbox One, PS4, Switch
 Genre: FPS
 Price: £29.99

Soph and Jess are the twin daughters of Wolfenstein's William J. Blazkowicz (aka the man who killed Hitler). So when daddy goes MIA in Nazi-occupied Paris, the Terror Twins are hurled into a co-op focused regurgitation of the trigger-happy series - sadly in singleplayer you rely on the game's dodgy AI to control the other Terror Twin, and they're barely any use. To enjoy Youngblood's riotous gunplay you need a real-life buddy (you can even buy just one copy to play over two PCs) in order to unlock the genuine tactical excitement of working together to match weapons and strategies against the ranks of high-powered enemy. Reviewed on Asus ROG G703GI (i7, 16GB, GTX 1080, asus.com/uk/ROG-Republic-Of-Gamers)

Skip to the end: Multiplayer is essential in this high speed shootout.

Score: 8/10

Elder Scrolls Online: Elsweyr

Platform: PC, Xbox One, PS4
 Genre: RPG
 Price: £39.99

Expansions to Elder Scrolls Online depend on the tourist experience - is the new territory distinct enough from everywhere else you've been looting, fighting and levelling-up over the past 12 months? Is it an exciting place to be, with enticing places to visit and dreadful things to slay? The Eastern-inspired lands of Elder Scrolls Online: Elsweyr, home to the catlike Kahjitt, can't match the fan-service of 2017's return to Morrowind, but the tangled jungles and scattered ruins certainly outclass Summerset's sunny uplands. The Necromancer class is brilliant, though the



much-lauded return of dragons to Tamriel fails to make a meaningful impact on your adventure through this new world. Reviewed on Asus ROG G703GI (i7, 16GB, GTX 1080, asus.com/uk/ROG-Republic-Of-Gamers)

Skip to the end: Atmospheric and characterful, Elsweyr is well worth a visit.

Score: 8/10

Marvel Ultimate Alliance 3:

The Black Order

Platform: Switch
 Genre: Action
 Price: £44.99
 Assembly needed

Marvel Ultimate Alliance has a straightforward selling point: It's an action toy box for Marvel fans. This third, Switch exclusive instalment boasts a ridiculously huge roster of heroes - from X-Men like Wolverine or Psylocke to the Guardians Of The Galaxy and blockbusters such as Thor and Iron Man - although without the exciting visual personality of their movie counterparts. You hand-pick a four-strong team of supers and smash through a series of missions and special Infinity Rifts, hoarding upgrades as you go. Multiplayer enhances the fun, and the ability to combine and complement each hero's skills and attacks, but if you're looking for depth in combat and level design you'll be disappointed - this is a simple and unsophisticated button-masher.

Skip to the end: Uncomplicated and simple but with tons of characters.

Score: 7/10

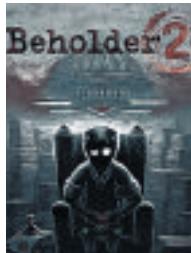


Beholder 2

Platform: PC, iPad/iPhone

Genre: Adventure

Price: £7.99



In Beholder, you were landlord of an apartment building in a totalitarian state, spying on tenants for personal gain or, alternatively, rebelling against the authorities. The sequel returns to the nightmarish dystopia - only now you're a clerk processing citizen

complaints in The Ministry, the government's temple of bureaucracy. In-between solving the murder of your estranged father (who was a Ministry bigwig) and completing paperwork minigames, you'll need to improve your standing by 'removing' your coworkers through fair means or foul. Plant contraband, for instance, and your supervisor will be executed, opening up an opportunity for promotion. Beholder 2 lacks the addictive focus of the original and feels more repetitive, but great writing and atmosphere make for a chilling adventure.

Skip to the end: A darkly engaging satire that could use more variety.

Score: 7/10

Games chart

- 1 Fire Emblem: Three Houses
- 2 FIFA 19
- 3 Crash Team Racing Nitro-Fueled
- 4 Super Mario Maker 2
- 5 Madden NFL 20



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Glynogwr Show celebrates its 70th anniversary

PHOTOGRAPHS

by GLYN EVANS

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AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

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GLYN Evans managed to find time amid the rather heavy showers to record these images of the 70th Glynogwr Show. We hope you enjoy them.



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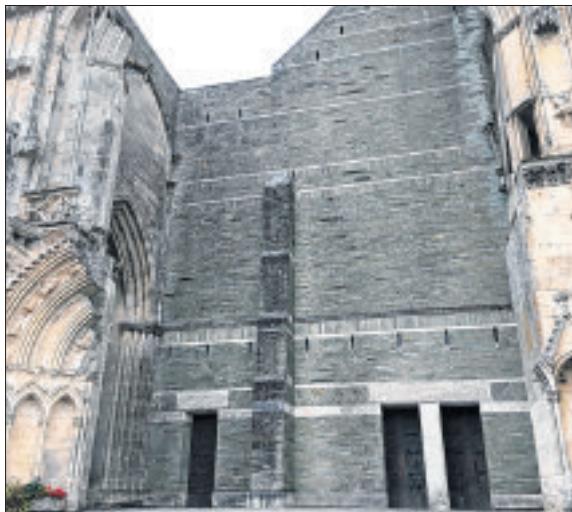
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No plain sailing on Normandy pilgrimage



Left: The pretty church of St Martin in Fresville. Cornflowers, stylised as the Bleuet de France, are the French equivalent of the Poppy.



Right: An entire facade of L'Église Notre-Dame de Saint-Lô was destroyed, along with 95 per cent of the town.

Far right: Crosses and bullet holes on a pillar in L'Église Notre-Dame de Saint-Lô.



EARLY morning, Normandy.

The vessel is full. Vehicles and occupants have been prepared for this moment for months. The air is pregnant with tension; the sense of anticipation electric.

The ramp goes down, the order is given, and it's GO!

Fighting breaks out immediately.

A Spaniard is in the cross hairs of a German, who...

No; it's not the D-Day landings, but a trip in July 2019 to France by ferry. The German tarried in the queue to disembark too long, so the Spaniard drove around and in front of him.

The Spaniard was then held up and the German went to remonstrate. So much for the entente cordiale

between our European friends...

Swiftly through French Customs and it is 40 minutes at a fair old lick to the *gîte* in Fresville, just outside Sainte-Mère-Église.

A journey through Normandy is, for many, a pilgrimage of sorts.

Seemingly each town in each department in Normandy has a museum – even it is simply a farmer who dug up an aircraft

engine or rusted Jeep – and a story to tell.

A case in point is Sainte-Mère-Église.

It is famed for an incident on D-Day when the parachute of John Steele of the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment caught on the steeple of the church. He hung there, pretending to be dead, for two hours until captured by the Germans, before promptly escaping and rejoining his unit.

The operations of D-Day and onwards

changed the course of the war and history.

Thousands of Allied servicemen – British, Canadian, Yanks, French, Poles, Norwegians, Australians, Czechoslovaks, Kiwis – took part, and many died.

Many hundreds of French civilians, too, perished in the battles.

Take, as just one example, Saint-Lô. Occupied from May 1940 onwards, it was a strategic location and one essential for the D-Day spearhead to continue.

Two intense bombing raids on June 6-7 destroyed, it is estimated, some 95 to 97 per cent of the town.

As one American soldier quipped after the raids: "We sure liberated the hell out of that place."

Any town or village that has so many churches in the region, did not

natural disaster, and rebuilt is never

the same. Saint-Lô is no exception.

It was a busy – in the restaurants and

tabacs – Friday afternoon. *Le marché*

des terroirs had just shut, and *Le Grand*

Balcon restaurant was the place to be.

Families, couples, workers, were

relaxing for the weekend over a *bière*

or two. Not a tourist trap, but a place

frequented by the locals, it was a pleasurable atmosphere, and in contrast to the

scared air enveloping the rebuilt town.

The old jail, destroyed during the raids,

lists the names of the men, women, and

children killed during the bombing, including

those in the jail. There are hundreds.

Église Notre-Dame de Saint-Lô, like

any town or village that has so many churches in the region, did not

escape damage. The walls, inside and

out, are peppered and pock-marked with evidence of small-arms fire, some in a pattern that suggests a target was hit.

Inside are crosses and graffiti carved into the columns. Do they predate the battle, or were they carved by someone – French civilian or German occupier – as they hoped for deliverance?

The real damage, however, was to one facade of the church. Look upwards and the great arch is no longer there. Blown to pieces, a simple, dull wall now fills the void once occupied by the Gothic stonework.

Words and photos AJ

Part Two next week.

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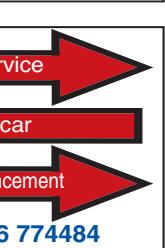
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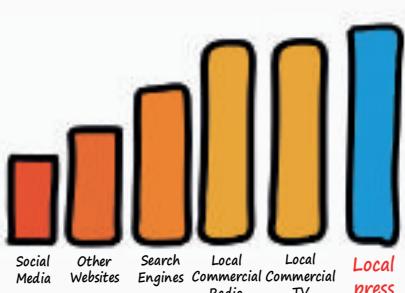
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Family Notices

LLOYD

Reginald William (William)

Peacefully after a long illness borne with great courage and dignity at Gwyn Nursing Home on 5th August 2019, William aged 87 years.

Beloved husband of Mary, loved brother of Cedric and the late Janet and late brother Peter. Dearly loved brother-in-law of Jean, Pam, John, Anne, Paul and the late John. Also a loved uncle to all his nephews and nieces.

William will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium on Wednesday, 21st August at 1pm.

Family flowers only. Donation in lieu, if desired, for the Parkinson's Society c/o the funeral director.

MATTHEWS

John Laney

With his family by his side, John, sadly passed away on 3rd August 2019 at the University Hospital of Wales after a short illness. A treasured husband, dad and bampy, John is survived by his loving wife

Doreen, two children, Robert and Gareth, daughter-in-law, Camilla, and three grandsons, James, Gregory and Thomas. Hard-working until the end, John was a loyal and trusted friend to many, and will be greatly missed by all.

Resting at W.A. Brown Funeralcare until the service on 22nd August 11.30am at St Athan Church, followed by committal at Coychurch Crematorium at 1.15pm.

Donations if desired, in memory of John may be made to Wales Air Ambulance.

THOMAS

David Ian (Jon Ian Ltd)

Peacefully on 6th August at his home in Broughton, David, aged 80 years. Much loved partner of Bethan, dearly loved father of Esther and Penny, father-in-law of Julian and Simon, cherished Grumps of Freddie, Charles, Lydia, Alexander, Harry, William and Ruby, loving great-grandfather of Millie and a dear brother of Philip.



David will be sadly missed by his family, friends and the shoe world.

Funeral Friday, 16th August. Service at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge at 12 noon, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 1.15pm. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu may be made to Marie Curie c/o Mel & Ron Watkins Funeral Services, 2, Hilda House, The Square, Pencoed, Bridgend CF35 5NP. Tel: 01656 860545.

JONES

Michael Henry

After a long and painful illness, Mike passed away at home on 5th August 2019. Beloved husband of Pat. Cherished dad to Philip and David and adored granddad.

Mike will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Resting at W.A. Brown Funeralcare until the funeral service on Wednesday, 21st August at 10am at Coychurch Crematorium.

Family flowers only. Donations if desired, in memory of Mike, may be made to Cancer Research Wales.

Pat wishes to say a special thank you to their wonderful friends, Avril and Rob for their strength and support and all their friends in Llantwit Major.

Pat would also like to thank everyone from the NHS, all of the carers and Marie Curie nurses involved in Mike's care and support. The care and compassion shown to Mike has been incredible.

ROBERTS

Thelma (née Baker) (Formerly Jones)

Peacefully after a long illness at Llandough Hospital on 7th August 2019, Thelma aged 85 years. Beloved wife of the late Hedley, loved mum of Sian and son-in-law Lyn. Cherished grandma to Gerran and the late Bethan.

Thelma will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium on Tuesday, 27th August at 11am.

No flowers by request. Donations in lieu, if so desired for LATCH c/o the funeral director.

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Family Notices

FEAR

Sharon Elleen

(Lwyn Gwern, Pencoed)

Sharon passed away peacefully on Tuesday, 6th August 2019, aged 80 years. A much loved wife, mother and grandmother.

She will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Funeral service Tuesday, 20th August 2019. Service and cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 10am.

All who knew Sharon are welcome to attend.

Family flowers only. Donations in lieu may be made to The Great Daffodil Appeal 2019 (Marie Curie) c/o Mel & Ron Watkins Funeral Services, 2, Hilda House, The Square, Pencoed, Bridgend, CF35 5NP. Tel: 01656 860545.

ELLIOTT

Julie Anne

Passed away peacefully at her home on 3rd August, aged 70 years, surrounded by family. A much loved mum, grandma and sister who did it her way right to the very end.

Always in our hearts and thoughts.

Resting at Robert D Johnson Funeral Directors, 29 Holton Road, Barry. A service to celebrate Julie's life will be held on Tuesday, 20th August at 10am at the Cardiff & Vale Crematorium, Port Road, Barry. Flowers may be sent to the funeral directors or donations may be made at the service in memory of Julie to the Cinnamom trust.

After the service the family invite friends to join them at Brynhill Golf Club.

For all enquiries telephone 01446 733844.

HENSHAW

Roma Jean
(née Howard)

Peacefully at her home in St Nicholas, Vale of Glamorgan on Sunday, 4th August 2019, Roma passed away in her 91st year. Beloved wife of the late George, cherished mother of Lynn and respected mother-in-law of Geoffrey.

Funeral service at Trehill Methodist Church, St Nicholas at 12 noon on Monday 19th August 2019, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend.

Immediate family flowers only. Donations in lieu of flowers, if so desired, to the Parkinsons Disease Society, c/o W. James & Sons, Funeral Director, Fonmon, Barry, CF62 3BZ.

HALL

Lindsey George

Sadly on 8th August after a short illness, Lindsey aged 76 years, of Heol-y-Cyw, Bridgend. Beloved husband of Pat, much loved dad and granddad, loving brother of Thelma and brother-in-law of Paddy and a dear uncle.

Lindsey will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

Funeral Thursday, 22nd August. Service and cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 2.15pm. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu may be made to Y Bwthyn Newydd, Princess of Wales Hospital c/o Mel & Ron Watkins Funeral Services, 2, Hilda House, The Square, Pencoed, Bridgend, CF35 5NP. Tel: 01656 860545.

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HOLLAND

Wayne William (Weapon)

Peacefully on 29th July at the University Hospital of Wales, Wayne, well known of Barry Island and for his time working on the railway. Devoted husband to Ann, much loved dad to Gemma and the late Leon. Special step dad of Marcus, Richard, Alexander and Sarah-Louise. A cherished and adored bampy and pappy to all his grandchildren. A loving brother and brother-in-law.

He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Wayne is resting in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, Court Road, Barry until a celebration of his life at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Wednesday, 21st August at 10am. No floral tributes by request. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service to support Make A Wish Foundation in memory of Wayne.

COPEMAN

Pamela Ann

Sadly passed away on 2nd August 2019. Wife of the late Eric, step mother to Sonia, sister to Malcolm and the late Graham and sister-in-law to Marion and Margaret.

Funeral service to be held on Wednesday, 21st August 2019 at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 12 noon. Flowers may be sent to Green Willow Funerals or donations in lieu, if desired, would be gratefully received to The British Heart Foundation c/o the funeral home. All enquiries to Green Willow Funerals, 21a Station Road, Dinas Powys, CF64 4DE. Tel: 029 2051 4627.

BEVAN

Jacqueline Anne

1933 - 2019

This beautiful lady departed us yesterday to the end she carried our torch.

Each note resplendent, pitch perfect, never faltered.

Truly in the day of yesterday light shone the brightest.

The queen of our hearts, dearest mother, your loving sons, Dylan and Lloyd.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Thursday, 29th August, service and cremation 11.30am at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend.

JAMES

Fiona Margaret (née Bates)

Peacefully on 10th August, Fiona, loving wife of Huw and devoted mum of Angu and Rory. Beloved daughter of Noni and Geoff and adored sister of Anna and Guy.

Deeply loved and hugely missed by all.

Private family service at St. Michael's and All Angels Church, Colwinston, followed by a public service on Friday, 23rd August at Coychurch Crematorium at 3.15pm.

Family flowers only please, any donations to Cancer Research UK or Y Bwthyn Newydd c/o Mel & Ron Watkins Funeral Services, 2 Hilda House, The Square, Pencoed, Bridgend, CF35 5NP. Tel: 01656 860545.

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PAYNE

Beryl Ann

Passed away at Llandough Hospital on 2nd August 2019, aged 76 after finally losing her battle with cancer. Beloved wife to Keith, mother of Mark and Stephen. Grandmother to Isla. Beryl will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Funeral service to take place at All Saints Church, Barry on Thursday, 22nd August at 10.45am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service to support Myeloma UK or National Kidney Federation UK in memory of Beryl. Funeral arrangements entrusted to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service 01446 407962.

EDWARDS

Steven (Eddie)

Suddenly at home on 7th August 2019, aged 60 years, loved and missed by his children Justin, Richie, Stevie and Naomi, his grandchildren Olivia, Celyn, Taiwon, Seren, Cadell, Eyiiee, Henley, Cariad, Maddox, Cassius, Ronnie and Reggie. Eddie will be sadly missed by his sister Dawn and his nieces.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, until the service in our Chapel on Friday, 23rd August at 10am, followed by a committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. Flowers welcome.

LLOYD

Rhys

Suddenly at home on the 31st July, aged 22.

Rhys will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Resting at Robert D Johnson Funeral Directors, 29 Holton Road, Barry. A service will be held to celebrate his life on Tuesday, 27th August at 10am, at the Cardiff & Vale Crematorium, Port Road, Barry.

Flowers may be sent to the funeral directors. For all enquiries telephone 01446 733844.

JENKINS

Edith Audrey (Audrey)

Peacefully at Barry Hospital on 5th August 2019, Edith Audrey, beloved wife of the late Graham Lewis Jenkins. Loving mother of Catherine and Caroline; mother-in-law of Gordon and Robert; adored grandmother of Sophie, James, Harriet and Dominic; doting great-grandmother of Arthur, Lewis, Rupert and Millie.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Thursday, 22nd August, service and cremation 2pm at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. Family flowers only.

VAUGHAN

David John

This amazing man was suddenly and tragically taken from us too soon at only 66 years, on 8th August 2019. Beloved husband of Jill, son of Pauline and the late Don. Much loved father and grandfather. Nephew, cousin and work colleague.

Loved by all he left behind and will be dearly missed by many.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Friday, 30th August, service and cremation 12 noon at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. Family flowers only.

JONES

Kenneth Charles

Passed away peacefully at home on 6th August 2019 after many months in hospital. Ken aged 89 years of Barry, husband of Edna, father of Lynette and Johnathan. Grandfather of Katherine, Lewis and Michael. Great grandfather of Freya and Riley. Funeral service at Cardiff & Vale Crematorium, Port Road, Barry on Wednesday, 21st August at 3pm.

Rest in Peace

In Memory

In Memory

LEWIS

Kathleen 'Beryl'

Treasured memories of devoted wife Beryl.

18th November 1941 - 18th August 2017

Formerly of BCBC.

Sadly missed by all who knew her.

From Mel

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Darren Hayward

on 17th August 2019

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Nannie & Grampy
(Daw)

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- ✓ Visit to Manchester Christmas Markets

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Captains together!



A small group of Brynhill golf club ladies past captains met on Friday, August 2, to play a Texas scramble. Mrs Carole Allen, who is the Brynhill golf ladies representative for the Glamorgan county golf association, organised a fun morning and wonderful prizes. Afterwards the ladies sat outside and enjoyed a light lunch. Carole then presented the winning ladies with their prizes.

The winners were Julie Harkin, Sue Holland and Judy Davies.

News from Barry Beavers

IN July, the Barry Beavers swimming club team competed at the Blaenau Gwent Otters Swimming Gala and returned home with 8 medals (two gold, two silver and four bronze).

The club continues getting new members and Jen, Nadiene and Nicholas make them feel welcome and help them gain confidence in the water.

On July 14, some of the club went to Barry Island to promote the club dressed in different animal costumes. On the day the club collected over £230.

On July 28, the club held its Halliwick workshop at the leisure centre, attended by members from the club and from Rhondda Polar Bears Swimming Club.

JK

A successful year for Bridgend Blue Bulls



Blue Bulls sponsor Patrick Harpur congratulates Josh Hanson on being selected by Hull FC to join their academy.

IT has been a League.

This has been down good year for the Bridgend Bulls, and his crew who have with 20 players receiving their caps

interest in rugby league and would like to help out or has a youngster who would like to play, get in touch on 07771 954002.

NC

News from Cowbridge Bowling Club

PRESSURE was 12-13; Cowbridge Hole, Colin Wilson 59, Porthcawl 79, and Norman Wilkinson 21-16; Gerry Lloyd, Alan Jordan, Andrew Morgan and Bob Penn 26-21; Mansel Davey, John Nixon, Guy Morton and Roger Barwick, 38-10.

They kept their best of the season to date for the Saturday league game, winning on all four rinks and recording a 'hot shot' on the last end.

On July 28 it was an away two rink game at Barry Central, playing for the Alun Martin Cup. Although there was a good win on one rink, this was offset by a loss on the other.

Scores: Mike Fahey, John Collin, Andrew Morgan and Norman Wilkinson 21-14; Alan Jordan, John Nixon, Clive Pritchard and Colin Wilson 8-21; **Cowbridge 29, Barry Central 35.**

In the evening league Triples match at home to league leaders and last season's champions Porthcawl, the visitors settled well and won on three of the four rinks and the match overall. Alan Wallace's trio came good in the last four ends. After the 13th end, the scores were level: 13 to each team, but they won the last five ends without reply.

Scores: John Collin, John Nixon and Colin Wilson 9-31; by Roger Barwick's team recording a 'hot shot' on the last end. **Scores:** Ron Dobie, Peter Rice, Mike Fahey and Ken Payne, Clive and Roger Barwick 18-21; Pritchard and Alan Wallace 25-14; Terry Dobie, Bryan Hole and Clive Pritchard, Bryan

12-13; Cowbridge

Hole, Colin Wilson 59, Porthcawl 79, and Norman Wilkinson 21-16; Gerry Lloyd, Alan Jordan, Andrew Morgan and Bob Penn 26-21; Mansel Davey, John Nixon, Guy Morton and Roger Barwick, 38-10.

The ladies only played in one game this last week in an evening League match away to Rhiwbina, which was cancelled on the day of the match as morning rain had left the green dangerous underfoot. As it was the second time this match had been

cancelled, both clubs decided not to try again but to share the points.

A Thursday afternoon league game away to Penarth Windsor was played with Cowbridge winning on two of the three rinks but losing overall by just three shots. **Scores:** Janet Morton, Maggie Penn, Sylvia Hole and Helen Nixon 8-20; Dorothy Pritchard, Sian Lewis, Phyllis Price and Lynda Wilson 16-13; Joan Bradley, Caryn Davies, Joy Woolford and Kay Edwards 20-14; **Cowbridge 44, Windsor 47.**

At the Saturday League game at home to Rhoose, with seven ends played there was nothing to choose between three of the rinks, but Roger Barwick's rink were beginning to forge ahead. On the other three rinks, Cowbridge raised their game and

it was a comfortable overall win helped by Roger Barwick's team recording a 'hot shot' on the last end. **Scores:** Ron Dobie, Peter Rice, Mike Fahey and Ken Payne, Clive and Roger Barwick 18-21; Pritchard and Alan Wallace 25-14; Terry Dobie, Bryan Hole and Clive Pritchard, Bryan

Sue takes Dinas Powys GC ladies championship



Sue Bridle receives the club championship trophy from Stuart Walker.

ON July 28, the Ladies 36-hole Dinas Powys Club Championship, played off scratch, was held between club champion Lisa Ryley and Sue Bridle.

The morning 18 holes finished all square and in the afternoon both players continued to play some fine golf until Sue finally won by three and two. Well done ladies, for a great championship.

On July 25, the Bronze Championship was held between Ruth Yates and Rhian Thomas.

In another close game, Ruth won on the 17th. On July 6 it was Captain's Day and Maxine Hird came second with a 64 nett.

July 13 was the Captain's monthly mixed competition, and Ann Mahenthiralingam came third with 41 points.

On July 2, Ruth Yates won with 34 points; second, Lisa Ryley 34; third, Annie Blackburn 32. On July 7, first, Lisa Ryley 67 nett; second, Catherine Roblin 72. July 9: first, Sue Edwards; second, Angela Brown.

In a 9 hole Stableford: first, Sharon Jesson 23 points; second, Sue Bridle 17; third, Rhian Thomas 15.

GEM NOTE: A slightly longer version of this report appeared last week, under the heading Brynhill Golf Club. Apologies to all concerned for any confusion.

Cowbridge Second XI post a good total but top form openers clinch game

AS the season creeps towards a conclusion, Cowbridge 2nd XI were hopeful of putting in a good performance against Mumbles on Saturday, August 3.

It wasn't the most auspicious of starts for Cowbridge with a number of the side arriving late to the Mumbles ground as a result of the vagaries of the traffic on the M4, plus other congestion caused by the Gower Show.

This meant that the usual batting order had to be re-jigged with Cowbridge being asked to bat first, with Ian Evans and Joe Russell opening up.

Both started brightly, coping well with the extra bounce produced by the artificial wicket that Mumbles play on. Joe was then unlucky to be caught at gully

On the face of it, a

particularly nasty delivery

competitive. However, at home to Llandarcy,

Cowbridge hadn't

This brought Will counted on the combined abilities of the Mumble Will and Ian (24) began pair of Paul Kenealy (62) and Dorwick (75*) pushed Cowbridge get to 65 dominated the off their first 20 overs. Cowbridge bowling.

This was a good start Try as they could, but Cowbridge knew none of the bowlers could

that they would have to exert any pressure and post a competitive total while Will, Heath and apiece, Kenealy (62) and Dorwick (75*) pushed provided by the arrival of Guy Parker to the crease.

With Guy promptly dispatching his first ball by the Cowbridge total. In the end, Mumbles surpassed the total

soon after for a well with six overs to spare. While Cowbridge made and gutsy 19 with the consistent Heath

came off second best in Webb then joining Guy. this contest, the fact is

The score began that Cowbridge came up to rise and following telling contributions two very capable batsmen and on a wicket that

(23) and Naveed (21), provided extra bounce, plus an out of character quickfire 19 from a rarity in the league.

It meant The side should there Cowbridge finished on fore not be too downhearted to have lost and

to be caught at gully On the face of it, a hopefully things can be

score of 158 seemed turned around next week rear up off a length. Cowbridge

JW

Old Hall Bridge Club results

THE results for the Old Hall Bridge Club for Wednesday, August 7 are as follows:

The club has an average of 7 tables per week with a focus on good play and enjoyment. Several members are Internationals who will give advice if asked. Visitors are welcome and are asked to arrive by 6.45pm. There will be a memorial session on August 21, when we celebrate the lives on three of the founding members – Dennis and Marjorie Smith, and Brian Swain.

CM

Stay safe when driving in the rain this summer

WE'RE having a typical English summer, sun for a couple of weeks and then downpours for days on end. IAM RoadSmart's head of driving and riding standards Richard Gladman advises a few ways to keep safe in heavy rain and floods.

Heavy rain

Driving in heavy rain will affect your visibility, so take it slow. Rule 126 of the Highway Code states that the braking distance between yourself and another car on a dry road surface should be at least two seconds, and at least four seconds when driving in the rain.

Ensure your windscreen wipers are working correctly, and that the windscreen is clean – using your wipers when you have a dirty windscreen will just smear and make your visibility even worse.

Turn your headlights on. Many of us now have automated headlights, but often they will not come on in adverse weather conditions; ensure they are on so you're visible to other road users. A good rule of thumb is that if you need your wipers on, then you need your headlights on too.

Aquaplaning

Is your car aquaplaning? Here are some signs that you could be:

Your engine may become louder if the driving wheels have lost grip.

It will feel as though you've dropped down in the gears causing revs to increase.

The steering may become lighter and unresponsive.

If you experience any of this, try not to panic.

Follow these tips:

Ease off the accelerator or cancel the cruise control.

Hold the steering wheel straight and firm.

Do not hit your brakes hard.

When your car gains traction you can slowly begin to use the brakes and slow down.

How to avoid aquaplaning

If it's been raining and you're about to drive, there are things that you can do to help prevent your car from aquaplaning. Standing water as shallow as 2.5mm can cause an aquaplaning effect at speed so be sure to follow the steps below:

Check your tyres – they can have a massive impact on how your car will handle in the wet. Watch this video by TyreSafe for more info:

Reduce your speed; problems occur when the tyres can no longer clear the standing water as they rotate. Going slower will allow time for the tread to do its job.

Be alert for flood warnings on the road and if you can see any water in the distance, be sure to slow down and prepare to go around it.

Avoid using cruise control in extreme conditions.

Floods

If there are floods you need to consider other routes to keep you safe. If the water is standing more than six inches deep, avoid driving through it. You can judge the depth in relation to the kerb.

If there are similar vehicles driving safely through, then you can make a judgement call on whether it's safe to do so yourself.

If the water is fast flowing, do not attempt to drive through it. There is a real danger of your car being swept away.

If you have decided to drive through a flood take the following precautions:

Go slowly and take it easy

Press lightly on the clutch and add gentle pressure to the accelerator to increase engine revs but do so without speed. Do this in a similar way to how you do hill starts, this will prevent water from entering

your exhaust. If you're in an automatic, accelerate lightly but control the speed with your brakes.

If you have any doubt, turn back. Often modern saloon cars have an air intake in the wheel arch and could be below water level if going through a flood. If your engine takes in any water, it will immediately hydro lock and the engine will stop.

Remember to stay alert and avoid splashing pedestrians. If this is done accidentally you can still receive a fixed penalty and three points on your license for driving without due care and attention. If done deliberately it could be a public order offence, a court appearance, or a fine.

Richard says "With the British weather the way it is, we should all be well practised at driving in the rain. Keeping your car maintained and the rubber (wipers and tyres) in good condition will help you stay safe. In the recent extreme weather, we have seen that standing water and floods are becoming more commonplace, so take extra care and if possible, avoid driving through standing water. I

If you're in any doubt about the depth or surface underneath a flood, then it's best not to take any chances."



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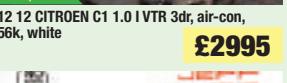


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HOYS qualifier for local rider Brooke



Brooke Lewis competed in her first Welsh team event recently.

WHAT an unbelievable few days Brooke Lewis of Cowbridge has had.

At the beginning of the year Brooke set herself a goal, to jump on the Welsh team: "If you believe, you achieve" is what she always says, and she has worked so hard since owning Boo to get where she is now, competing at her first international held at The Vale Riding Club for her first HOYS qualifier, gaining them Welsh 138 team. We selves an amazing clear words cannot explain Brooke and the family would love to thank the local supporters were Jenna Thomas, Shan Close and Cardiff and amazing.

Brooke jumped two Vale Riding Club for rounds 1m10 and 1m15 – helping her progress ever Welsh home pony the jumps were almost as big as her, but she wasn't amazing opportunity. David Broome Event fazed by it.

AS

News from Barry Chess Club

ROUND four of the Barry Chess Club Championships has taken place, with six matches being played.

It looks tight at the top of both sections, with only 0.5 points separating the top four players and in the Plate only tie break separates the top two.

Martin Ricketts moves up a place into third and Peter Watkins also moves up the table to fourth place.

Both of these players recorded a win to make it three wins from four matches.

In the final round Tom plays Martin and Peter plays Dave. It is possible

that any of these players could be club champion this year but tie break could be important, so been unbeaten since every result for every 2017 in our club championships: sorry Dave – a close match with Tom Cooke was decided by an extra pawn so Tom remains undefeated on 3.5 points. Dave is now in second place on three points, with only the tie break separating him from two others. The Barry Chess Club meet

This has brought him up to seventh place in the table but level on points with Ken Curry, who is a place above.

There were also wins for Mike O'Leary and Ieuan Thomas. In the Plate, although Ken and Eirion lead this section every player could catch them on two points if they win their final game; yolasite.com

deciding factor here. I recently confirmed that Dave Parsons has been unbeaten since every result for every 2017 in our club championships: sorry Dave – a close match with Tom Cooke was decided by an extra pawn so Tom remains undefeated on 3.5 points. Dave is now in second place on three points, with only the tie break separating him from two others. The Barry Chess Club meet

at 7.30pm on Monday at the West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry, CF62 6QY and is open to players of all standards. Contact us through the website: barrychessclub.

This Saturday, Barry entertain Newcastle Emlyn, also a Division 1 team, in the second game. Please note the kick off has been changed to 12.15pm to allow both teams and supporters to watch the Wales v England game in the Clubhouse. The Club Lottery hits £5,000 this week after last week's numbers 07-09-11 and 18 failed to produce a winner. Two tickets matched three numbers to claim £10.

PJ

Lady bowlers in double win

THE ladies played two matches last week, both at home which they won comfortably.

The first of these, a Cowbridge Shield Match, was played on August 6 against the Pyle and Kenfig Club and the score was Cowbridge 61, Pyle and Kenfig Hill 34.

The second, a Thursday afternoon league game was against visitors Rectory Road from Penarth with the final score: Cowbridge 61, Rectory Road 36.

The men did not fare so well in their two away games.

On August 7 at Penarth Windsor, they lost overall

Competitions in full swing at Wenvoe

THE end of July money. With well over count back. 100 entries it was Roger The Ladies' Section Carty who duly obliged were very busy, complet- with an excellent score of 40 points, two ahead of of their club competi- Steve Bartlett and Wayne tions for the Finals Day Curtis with the former in early September. On holding on to second Saturday there was an place on count back. opportunity to play in a

Sunday was the day Stableford competition for trying to get the and Nicola Manning winner's name on the continued her good form, honours boards. On offer winning her second com- was the Captain's Shield petition in a couple of weeks.

Nicola scored well

icap and the Palmer Cup for 18 and over with both with 38 points to pip

competitions medals.

the consistent Jane Lott Craig Balchin turned who finished just one in another great per- point behind and ahead formance to win the of Mags Lewis on 35 Captains Shield with an points.

excellent gross 74 net 68 The busy programme to win by two strokes. A continues throughout stunning round included August and September 4 birdies and 9 pars with and the Captain's Charity

three of the birdies on Open Day on September the opening three holes. 7 provides a great oppor- Jim Hegarty and Dennis tunity for members and Davies also played visitors to enjoy a great exceptionally well to round of golf and a meal post sub-par net scores helping to raise funds for of 70 with Jim having the Captain's nominated the consolation of second charity, Parkinson's UK. place on count back.

The day is open to both David Vaughan won gentlemen and ladies, the Palmer Cup with a including mixed teams of significant improvement four players. Full details

on the back nine and his are on the club website net 70 got him home www.wenvoecastlegolf- by a single stroke from club.co.uk or contact the Mike Brown and Steve club secretary on 02920 Stickler both with net 71. 594371, who would be Mike also improved on delighted to book a tee the back nine and took time.

BJ

A very busy week for Romilly Bowling Club

ON July 27 Romilly Bowling Club First team travelled to Bargoed, and the results were:

Rink 1: Paul James, Stuart Simpson, Phil Edwards and skip Alan Bannister, 15-11; Rink 2: Glyn Sheppard, Dave Noble, Roger Jones and skip Alan Bryan, 14-19; Rink 3: Paul Swannick, Barrie Griffiths, Ray Hewitson and skip Steve Close, 26-19; Rink 4: Eric Fortt, Terry Bloomfield, Steve Close and skip Mike Doyle, 16-21. Aggregate win: 83-71.

On August 3, Romilly A welcomed Rumney and it was a 74-all draw.

Rink 1: John Kirkpatrick, Alfie Woolcock, Anthony Jones and skip John Kirk, 25-19; Rink 2: Phil Herbert, Glyn Sheppard, Brian Parker and skip Mike Gronow, 17-24; Rink 3: Dennis Mottram, Peter Hunt, Dave Francis and skip Tony Freeman, 17-17; Rink 4: Paul

On August 3, Barry Romilly 1sts travelled to Ynysybwl. Rink 1: Alan Bryan, Dave Noble, Clive Collins and skip Brian Foscolo, 23-20; Rink 2: Alan Bannister, Paul Swannick, Gary Eastman and skip Jeff Wright, 16-14. Aggregate defeat: 92-71.

On July 31 Romilly welcomed Penarth Rectory in the Munro Cup. Pal Swannick, Gary Eastman and skip Jeff Wright, 23-16; Rink 3: Barrie Griffiths, 15-14. Jerry Daly, Roger Jones, JWK

Barry Rugby Club news

BARRY gave an indication that they will be competitive this season as they suffered an injury time defeat at the hands of experienced Division 1 East Pontypool United in a warm up game last Saturday.

This Saturday, Barry entertain Newcastle Emlyn, also a Division 1 team, in the second game. Please note the kick off has been changed to 12.15pm to allow both teams and supporters to watch the Wales v England game in the Clubhouse. The Club Lottery hits £5,000 this week after last week's numbers 07-09-11 and 18 failed to produce a winner. Two tickets matched three numbers to claim £10.

AJ

Brackla RFC prepares to kick off new season

WITH the summer break nearly over Brackla RFC are set to play their first pre-season friendly against Ogmore Vale RFC, on August 17: 1pm kick-off.

The Magpies finished last season strong with a run of five wins on

the bounce and finishing fourth in the WRU east central league, with most tries scored and highest points difference. With an influx of teams added to the league this season management committee have decided that all teams will play each other only once on a home or away basis, thus

ensuring each team 17 fixtures as well as fixtures in a division 3 shield. The Magpies have drawn Cardiff Internationals in the first round of the shield, and if they get to the final they could see themselves playing in the principality stadium (TBC). Brackla RFC held their first touch rugby

and family barbecue over the summer, it was for tee are trying to secure and enjoyed by all the a community asset transfer and ensure the Forces Fitness, Bridgend Athletic, a young Kenfig Hill side even participated – it really was a great community day for all ages, raising money so we would like to for Diabetes UK with the wish the squad the best of luck for the season. Brackla charity fund-raisers totalling £250. Mark Payne



Seasiders defeated by Llanelli

PORTHCAWL suffered a shock 42 run defeat to bottom side Llanelli at Stradey Park on a weekend when most fixtures fell victim to the weather.

However, one consolation was the seven points gained as the teams with cancelled fixtures only gained four points. It was an unsatisfactory afternoon for the Seasiders who felt they were on the wrong end of some poor umpiring decisions but it does not excuse an inept batting performance, as a number of the visitors failed to cope with the spin of Llanelli's Joshua Williams, seven batsmen falling to catches.

The main controversy surrounded opening bat Lewis Jones who, despite his foot being aloft, was given not out stumped before he had scored. Another stumping went unpunished and a run out, both against the same batsman, who went on to score half his side's total, with 85 out of a total of 170.

Without Jones, the hosts would have crumbled to under 100 as only three other batsmen reached double figures. Skipper Rhys Wescott made 17 as did Dafydd Daniel and Leon Randell was 13 not out.

For the Seasiders, skipper Nick Morgan was the main destroyer, his canny off spinners yielding superb figures of 5-39 from nine overs and his 14-year-old son Spencer also weaved his leg spin magic taking 2-22.

Another of Porthcawl's growing band of young cricketers, Isaak Cronje, finished with 2-38 from eight overs with his seamers while veteran leggie Steve Richmond gathered the other wicket.

Steffan Flood once again excelled in

the field with three catches, taking him to the top of the league's charts with 16 victims, while Chris Richards added to his growing list of successes with another stumping, to confirm his status as the division's top wicket keeper.

Porthcawl made a disastrous start to their reply slipping to 49-5 with opener Mark Dixon the only batsman in the top six to prosper with 30 from 57 balls, including four boundaries.

Steve Richmond, coming to the crease at the loss of the fifth wicket, could only look on as wickets continued to tumble, the visitors in total disarray at 77-9. Richmond was unbeaten on 11 at that stage but found an unexpected ally in number 11 Mark Bevan, noted for his frugal bowling rather than for his gritty batting. He showed a surprising aptitude for holding up one end as he and Richmond added 51 for the last wicket before

Richmond was caught for an excellent 44 from 100 balls, an innings containing four boundaries. Bevan's gallant 27 ball resistance earned him 7 not out.

Joshua Williams brought about the visitor's downfall with superb figures of 5-27 from nine overs and Richard Williams' nine over stint brought him an admirable return of 3-17. Lewis Jones concluded an afternoon of personal triumph with 1-3.

The second team's home fixture with Ammanford Seconds fell victim to the overnight and morning storm, the game called off after high winds damaged the Locks Lane covers causing rain to soak the wicket.

Final score Llanelli 170 all out, Porthcawl 128 all out. J E

Bridgend Bridge Club results

THE latest results for Bridgend Bridge Club are as follows:

On August 7: First, Vida Halford and Debbie Lea; second, Rob Forman and Alan Heath; third, David Crompton and David Bowen.

The winners on handicap were David Crompton and David Jones.

The winners on handicap were Maggie and Richard Ashpole. On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there is a gentle bridge session.

On August 9: First, Nolton Church Hall, there is a gentle bridge session. Glyn Williams and Dave Lea; second Maggie when help is available Ashpole and David with the bidding.

The winners on handicap were Maggie and Richard Ashpole; second, Eileen

Wickham and Mari

All sessions are played in a friendly manner, visitors and new members

Bowen. The winners on handicap are always welcome.

On August 8: First, Glyn Williams and Dave Lea.

For more information, contact Steve Burgoyne

Ashpole; second, Eileen

Regular club nights on 01656 661968.